

The Brooklyn Paper is 'Newspaper of the Year'

The Brooklyn Paper

The Brooklyn Paper has been named "Newspaper of the Year" by one of the nation's largest newspaper trade associations.

Calling The Brooklyn Paper "strongly and brightly written throughout," judges for the Suburban Newspapers of America specifically praised "Brooklyn's Real Newspaper" for its reporting on Bruce Ratner's

TOP NATIONAL HONOR CITES ATLANTIC YARDS COVERAGE

Atlantic Yards mega-development.

"The Brooklyn Paper's aggressive, readable coverage of local developer Bruce Ratner stood out," they wrote, adding that The Paper's "use of graphical elements ... illuminates and draws readers into stories."

They also loved our back pages. "Color-

ful classifieds were accessible and reader-friendly," the judges said, citing The Paper for "general excellence."

Publisher Ed Weinraub was particularly pleased that The Paper's Atlantic Yards coverage was front and center.

"This story — the biggest Brooklyn story

in our lifetimes — is one we've followed intensely for four years, despite strong commercial pressures to do otherwise, and despite appearing to be out on a limb, given the determination of other New York newspapers to ignore it or misreport it."

Publisher Celia Weinraub said her staff

"should be rightfully proud to receive this recognition of their outstanding work," though Paper Editor Gersh Kuntzman was less florid.

"It is customary for editors who bring home awards like this to get hefty raises," Kuntzman quipped. "I will use a portion of

mine to take the entire staff out for a well-earned drink."

The SNA represents more than 2,000 daily and weekly newspapers in both suburban and urban community markets across the country. The contest was judged by the American Press Institute.

The award will be presented during the SNA's Publishers' and Advertisers' Directors' Conference, in October in Philadelphia.

The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN EDITION
INCLUDING DUMBO

AWP/16 pages • Vol. 30, No. 31 • Saturday, Aug. 11, 2007 • FREE

Lawrence St tower may top Williamsburgh Bank

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

The Williamsburgh Bank Building's iconic clocktower would no longer be the borough's tallest structure, if a big-time development company has its way.

The Clarett Group, the firm behind the Forte condos in Fort Greene, submitted a proposal in June for a 51-story residential building at 111 Lawrence St., near the MetroTech campus Downtown. The Buildings Department rejected the proposal and sent it back to

the developer for revision.

But if the basic elements of the proposal remain intact, the 491-unit residential tower would rise 514 feet, two feet taller than the legendary Williamsburgh Bank Building. The developer did not return repeated requests for comment. But

local preservationists are wary.

"There is nothing sacrosanct about the specific height of the Williamsburgh Bank building," said Simon Bankoff, Historic Districts Council executive director. "It's more of a case of what we want Brooklyn to look like. Do we want Brooklyn to be

the mirror image of the Manhattan skyline?"

In 2006, Brooklynites were similarly aghast to discover that Miss Brooklyn, the trophy skyscraper of the Frank Gehry-designed 16-tower-and-arena Atlantic Yards project, would rise to 620 feet and obscure views of the clocktower. Later that year, developer Forest City Ratner, agreed to lower its height to below 512 feet.

If Bankoff had his way, Claret would be the same.

"Brooklyn was once called the borough of churches, because church steeples were the tallest things around," said Bankoff. "The notion of this high-rise living is not necessarily what defines Brooklyn as an area, as a notion, as a state of mind."



Hits and misses at ballpark

The Miss: The crowd reacts as Cyclones first baseman Jason Jacobs over runs a foul pop at Monday's game at KeySpan Park (left). The Hit: Borough President Markowitz bobble-head doll, given out at Sunday's game, was a smash!



Mayor delivers for Ratner

After show of outrage, he OKs another \$200M

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Paper

Mayor Bloomberg agreed this week to give Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner a \$200 million bonus.

The tax break is part of a package that reportedly seeks to cutback tax incentives to real estate developers in upscale areas and to encourage the construction of moderate-income housing.

This week's deal, involving Bloomberg and leaders of the state Assembly and Senate — promises to modify legislation passed in June

that includes a \$300 million bonus to Ratner, now reduced by one-third. The bonus is in the form of a Ratner-only "carve-out" in 421-a tax abatements.

In June, news of the Ratner bonus stirred an uproar even among Ratner supporters, who termed it excessive. Ratner-boosters Bloomberg said it would "hurt the very people everybody talks about helping and gives tax breaks to a developer that doesn't need them and which we don't have to do."

But this week, Bloomberg urged Gov. Spitzer to sign the bill — which includes the full \$300 million Ratner

bonus on the promise of legislative leaders to revise the bill after they reconvene in the fall. Legislators said that Spitzer would receive both versions of the proposed law.

The new version of the bill, the so-called "Ratner carve-out" allowed the developer to receive a 25-year 421-a tax break for all 16 of his buildings — even the ones that include no affordable units.

The new version of the carve-out reduces the length of the tax break to 15 years and requires that for each 1,500 units built, 20 percent must be affordable.

The father of the bill, Assembly-

man Vito Lopez (D-Bushwick), declined to comment on the Atlantic Yards provision, hailing the larger bill as a long-awaited victory for low and moderate-income city residents.

"This is a compromise. It's a very good bill that will create affordable housing all across the city," Lopez said.

Affordable housing advocates praised the bill. "It will create more affordable housing around the city," said Deb Howard, executive director of the Pratt Area Community Council. As for Ratner, she said, "he got lucky."

Bloomberg declined to comment on the deal's impact on Ratner.



A man observes a car smothered by a fallen tree on Ovington Avenue, after a freak tornado stormed through Bay Ridge and Sunset Park on Wednesday, Aug. 8. See the story on page 14.

Deno's hotel

Carney seeks rooms of his own as city acts to derail Thor's plan

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Paper

City Hall wants to kill a \$1.5-billion plan to turn Coney Island into a fantasyland of hotels, amusements and rides — but down on the boardwalk, at least one ride operator is singing a different tune.

"Stranger things have happened than a hotel atrium built around a Ferris wheel," said Dennis Vourderis, owner of Coney's landmarked Wonder Wheel ride and operator of Deno's Wonder Wheel Park, most of which was recently sold to embattled Coney developer Joe Sitt by Vourderis' landlord Jack Ward.

Vourderis retains a 13-year lease to the boardwalk park, but he told The Brooklyn Paper that he would consider selling his lease for the chance to build a Wonder Wheel hotel.

"With creativity and a lot of money, it could be awesome," he said.

Meanwhile, the Bloomberg administration is reportedly considering a land swap with Sitt that would give

the city rights over Deno's and the adjacent 10 acres of Sitt-owned land in exchange for land a few blocks west of the amusement district, adjacent to KeySpan Park.

Sitt would get KeySpan's parking lot and the Abe Stark ice skating rink in the land swap, according to the New York Post.

See **DENO** on p 14

OUR OPINION

Why not Thor?

The city's failure to redevelop, reimagine and reinvestigate Coney Island is a decades-long calamity. Dating back to the Wagner administration at least, and with the lone exception of Rudy Giuliani, who built a minor league baseball stadium there, mayor after mayor has sat idly while this once-vibrant, world-famous amusement area has decayed for want of investment, develop-

ment and wild, crazy ideas befitting the spirit of the so-called "People's Playground."

Given all those years of failure, we remain completely baffled — and, frankly, appalled — by the Bloomberg Administration's handling of a legitimate proposal by Joe Sitt's Thor Equities to redevelop a vast stretch of Coney Island's amusement area into a \$1.5-billion

See **WHY NOT THOR** on p 6

Nighttime bike race skirts rules in Prospect Park

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

Once a week, Prospect Park plays host to an illicit scratch race for bicyclists, barring an edgier side of a park better known for its picnics, dog walks and ballgames.

The races go off without a permit and are not sanctioned by the Parks Department, so they are technically illegal. But they seem to be tolerated by police charged with enforcing the park's rules. (During the hour-and-a-half span of a recent race, at least three cop cars drove by and let the race go on.)

One gathering took shape on a weekday evening, already well past sundown, as cyclists on fixed-gear bikes who'd heard of the event through word-of-mouth began sweeping into the Grand Army Plaza entrance of Prospect Park. They arrived in ones and threes, their faces lit by streetlamps making halos in the haze.

Congregating at the grassy triangle just past the entrance and leaning their track bikes into the grass, before they paid \$3 to an organizer for the privilege of racing.



Bicyclists race around Prospect Park's loop for fun and prizes.

"Some people drink, some people do drugs, some people read books, some people run — I ride my bike," said Jed Stewart, a Red Hook resident leaning on his Brass Knuckle bike, explaining why he came. "It's a vice."

Stewart looked like a serious cyclist, as did about a third of the 50-or-so competitors. They had garish Lycra skin-suits, muscle-bound legs, and a swagger.

The rest were bike punks, of the two-wheeled messenger and gearhead variety. They had garish Lycra skin-suits, muscle-bound legs, and a swagger.

As the race-hour approached, Heidi, the organizer, stood center-stage, in a black, orange and white one-piece, and announced the rules of the game. Fireflies flickered among the blinking safety lights.

"This is week four," said Heidi. "This race is two laps. First through fifth place will get points. And, there are special sprinter points for the first person to pass me. I'll give myself a minute's head-start."

After some discussion about what constituted "passing" and a warning from Heidi about staying out of the way of other park users, racers lined up. Volunteers positioned themselves on the finish line. Crickets sang in the background. Heidi sprinted off into the darkness of the 3.5-mile loop that, coincidentally, is closed to motor vehicles after 7 p.m. A minute later, the rest followed.

This is the second year that this particular group has held under-the-radar races in the park. Reportedly, the originator of the race series, a cyclist named Tyler, ended his version early last year after a collision between a cyclist and a pedestrian left the cyclist with a broken bone, and the pedestrian with minor injuries.

Heidi, who has resurrected the races, wouldn't comment on the record for this story. But she and one volunteer did warn cyclists to be careful and warned other park users to beware of the fast-moving racers coming around the bend.

"As racers we take a degree of responsibility for ourselves and others," said one cyclist who wished to remain anonymous.

In an ideal world, the racers would get a permit, and maybe even some accident insurance, said Eugene Patton, spokesman for the Prospect Park Alliance, which operates the park.

"It's a safety issue," said Patton. "That said, friends and bike clubs probably have informal races that we don't know about."

About 15 minutes after this race began, the cyclists reemerged from the dark and began clearing the finish line, using the ensuing curve to slow down. Many sank onto the grass to rest and catch their breath.

"I like the competition and the speed," said Dave Trimble, a Red Hook resident who was leaning on his Cinelli, the light reflecting off the sweat on his face. "And, [unlike most races], this one is late at night on a weekday, and it's less serious."

After the ritual handing-out of the prizes — which included coffee vouchers and homebrew — the cyclists remounted their bikes. Some headed out for ice cream. Others headed home.

Until next week, that is. Same time. Same place.

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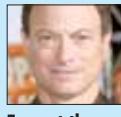
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HERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY August 11



Forrest thump

Gary Sinise, best known as his "Forrest Gump" character Lieutenant Dan Taylor, didn't get mad, he got musical. Tonight, Sinise and his Lt. Dan Band will pay tribute to the Brooklyn Wall of Remembrance in KeySpan Park, which commemorates Brooklynites who lost their lives on September 11.

8 pm at Brooklyn College's Wald Whitman Theater (one block from the junction of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues in Flatbush). Tickets start at \$20. For information, call (718) 951-4600.

SUNDAY August 12

Baker's delight

Tonight, eight-time Grammy winner Anita Baker brings her soulful songs to the Seaside Summer Concerts series. The Detroit-born "Sweet Love" singer will belt out hits from her 20-plus year career. Paired with a nice walk on the beach, this could be one romantic Coney Island night!

7:30 pm at Asaf Levy/Seaside Park (West Fifth Street and Seaside Avenue in Coney Island). Free. For information, call (718) 469-1912.



TUESDAY August 14



Book 'Boom'

As part of the Brooklyn Public Library's Adult Summer Reading Series, Sunny's Reading Series honcho Gabriel Cohen will read from his latest book, "Boomboom." If you've ever been annoyed with the sounds of the city — and who hasn't been this summer — this is a book you shouldn't sleep on.

2:30 pm at the Midwood branch (975 East 14th St. at Avenue J in Midwood). Free. For information, call (718) 253-0987 or visit www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org.

WEDNESDAY August 15

Let's get 'Littoral'

Avant garde performance space Issue Project Room is hosting another night of their "Littoral Series," featuring readings from Mike Topp and Tso Lin, pictured, who has two new books out this summer. Additionally, Brown Vin Overdrive will provide the experimental tunes.

8 pm at Issue Project Room (232 Third St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus). \$10. For information, call (718) 330-0313 or visit www.issueprojectroom.org.



FRIDAY August 17

Spin out

Tonight at "Tighten Up Brooklyn," a cast of DJs will be spinning an all-vinyl set of reggae, rock steady and dancehall tunes from classics to little-known gems. Wear your best checkerboard outfit, knock back a Red Stripe and dance the night away like a true rude boy.

10 pm at Magnetic Field (97 Atlantic Ave. at Hicks Street in Brooklyn Heights). Free. For information, call (718) 834-0096 or visit www.magneticbrooklyn.com.

ONE DAY IN BROOKLYN

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

SAT, AUG 11

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

FLOATING POOL: 9 am to 7 pm. Located at the foot of Jerusalem Street. www.brooklynfloatingpool.org/pool.

PROSPECT PARK BIRD WALK: at the Prospect Park Audubon Center, 8 am to 10 am. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 387-3000. Free.

EARLY MORNING BIRDING: Discovery walk through the Salt Marsh of Gerritsen Creek. 8 am. Salt Marsh Center, 3302 Avenue U. Call 311 and ask for the Urban Park Rangers. Free.

WHITE ISLAND CANOE ADVENTURE: Urban Park Rangers of the Salt Marsh Nature Center host a canoe trip to White Island. Open to participants who have intermediate experience. 11 am. Call to register and for info. (718) 421-2021.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY: Bring a camera and explore the beauty of Fort Greene Park. 11 am. Meet at the Fort Greene Visitor Center, high on the hill near the Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park Entrance. Call 311 and ask for the Brooklyn Urban Park Rangers. Free.

WEB OF LIFE: Discover how the plants and animals live together in Fort Greene Park. 11 am. Meet at the Fort Greene Visitor Center, high on the hill near the Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park Entrance. Call 311 and ask for the Brooklyn Urban Park Rangers. Free.

PEDAL BOATING: Cruise Brooklyn's freshwater lake in a pedal boat. \$15 for one hour, plus \$10 refundable deposit. Noon to 6 pm. Enter Prospect Park near the Parkside and Ocean Avenue entrance. www.prospectpark.org.

LULUWATER EXPLORATION: Enjoy a boat tour detailing Prospect Park's aquatic habitat. Brochure provided. \$10. 56 kids. Noon to 12:45 pm. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3401.

WEEKVILLE TOUR: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment hosts "Past, Present and Future." Learn about the area known as Weeksville and its historical significance. \$13. \$10 members. 50 seniors and students. Additional \$5 admission fee for house tour. 1 pm to 3:30 pm. Meet in front of Boy and Girls High School, Fulton Street and Streetcar Avenue. (718) 788-8500.

RED HOOK BOATERS: Go kayaking. 1 pm to 5 pm. Park Pier Coffee, Fort Ferra street, Red Hook. (718) 476-4558. www.redhook-boaters.org.

PERFORMANCE

FORT GREENE CANTATA: Today, "Tony Terrell's Caribbean Jazz Quartet." 1 pm. Fort Greene Park, Washington and Delacorte avenues. Sorry, no contact telephone number. Free.

CERVANTES PLAY: Puerto Rican Traveling Theater performs works by Cervantes. 6 pm. Sunset Park, 48th Street and Sixth Avenue. (718) 437-1413. Free.

BARGE MUSIC: Brunch at noon features music by Chopin, Liszt and Rachmaninoff. Wine, cookies, cheese and crackers served. Concert at 1 pm. Call for ticket info. Also, classical music concert featuring works by Schubert, Mozart and Brahms. \$40. \$25 students. 6 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: 29th annual event presents an African Festival featuring music with the Sierra Leone Refugee All Stars, Selassie Bambaro and others. 8 pm.



Full of Grace: On Aug. 15, the Jack Grace Band brings its honky-tonk stylings to Cafe Steinhof in Park Slope. Frontman Jack Grace likes to call himself the "Martini Cowboy," so join him in a drink and take in the tunes.

Prospect Park Bandshell, enter park at Prospect Park West and Ninth Street. (718) 855-7882. Free.

OTHER

WEEKVILLE FARMERS MARKET: Farm-fresh produce. Cooking demonstrations by Madeline Allen of Just Food. 9 am to 1 pm. 1699 Berrys, between 16th and 17th Streets and Buffalo Avenue. (718) 788-8500.

INDE MARKET: Collective of Brooklyn-based emerging designers show their wares of fashion, accessories, both and beauty, pet gear, home goods and more. 11 am to 7 pm. Smith and Union streets. www.brooklynindemarket.com.

BCAT EDUCATION: BCAT Center for Media Education, offers an orientation to learn about their many free and low-cost video and multimedia classes. 11 am. 37 Bedford Pl., 2nd Floor. (718) 353-1222. Free.

LIBRARY TALK: New York Artists Unlimited and Friends of the Brooklyn Heights Library bring you the story of the Town: A Vaudeville Salute. 1 pm. 280 Cadman West View. (718) 423-7100. Free.

RED HOOK ART SHOW: Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition presents its "Really Big Art Show." 1 pm to 6 pm. Also, performance by the Archetype. 3 pm. Red Hook Pier, 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2506. Free.

BALL GAME: Brooklyn Cyclones play Auburn Doubloodyes. Also, superhero night. Attendees are invited to wear costumes to the game. First 1,250 children.

(14 and younger) to arrive at the park will receive a comic coloring book. \$6 to \$13. 6 pm. Key Span Park, 1904 Surf Ave., Coney Island. (718) 507-7300.

SUN, AUG 12

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

FLOATING POOL: 9 am to 7 pm. Located at the foot of Jerusalem Street. www.brooklynfloatingpool.org/pool.

BROOKLYN RIVERA: Municipal Art Society hosts a tour of Coney Island and Brighton Beach. Joe Svehlak leads tour. \$15. \$12 for MMS members. 10 am. Meet outside the Coney Island-Silwood Avenue subway station at the northeast corner of Silwood and Surf avenues. (212) 429-1049. Free.

TAKE A WALK: Jerry's Singles hosts a two-hour walk on the beaches of Brooklyn. Ages 25 and older. \$10. Noon. Visit www.brooklynjerry.com.

PROSPECT PARK WALK: Urban Park Rangers host a walk around the Midwood and Lookout Hill sections of Prospect Park. 11 am. Meet at the Audubon Center, near the Lincoln Road entrance to the park. For info, call 311. Free.

PERFORMANCE

BARGE MUSIC: 1 pm. See Sat., Aug. 11.

OTHER

HISTORY CLUB: Urban Park Rangers of Salt Marsh Nature Center offers a talk about Brooklyn's role in the American Revolution. 1 pm. 3302 Ave. U. Call 311 for info. Free.

RED HOOK ART SHOW: Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition presents its "Really Big Art Show." 1 pm to 6 pm. Also, Red Hook poet S. David entertains. 3 pm. Red Hook Pier, 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2506. Free.

BALL GAME: Brooklyn Cyclones play Auburn Doubloodyes. Baseball legend Jackie Robinson is honored. The first 2,000 adults to arrive at the park will receive a model of Ebbets Field, the place where Robinson played. 1 pm. 1904 Surf Ave., Coney Island. (718) 507-7300.

CAFE STEINHOFF: Today, "The Sting" (1973). 10:30 pm. Coney Island, at 14th Street. (718) 367-7776. Free.

MON, AUG 13

SUMMER READING: Shelly Ruben reads from her book, "The Street." 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Windsor Terrace branch, 140 East 18th St., at Fort Hamilton Parkway. (718) 686-9707. Free.

MIX CONCERT SERIES: presents "An Evening of Heart and Soul," with special guests. 7:30 pm. Fort Hamilton Parkway. Tickets available at Brooklyn and Kingston avenues. (718) 469-1912. Free.

TUES, AUG 14

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP: hosted by the Alzheimer's Association of New York City. 10 am to 11:30 am. Call for location information. (516) 484-3188. Free.

WOODWORKING WORKSHOP: 2 pm to 4 pm. Salt Marsh Center, 3302 Avenue U. Call for more information. Call 311 and ask for the Urban Park Rangers. Free.

CAREGIVER HELP: Support group for caregivers in the Park Slope area. 4 pm to 5 pm. See 9 DAYS on page 9.

CIVIC CALENDAR

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14

72nd Precinct Community Council meeting. Marlene Heim Center (4520 44th Ave. at 45th Street). 7:30 pm. Call (718) 965-6311.

MONDAY, AUGUST 20

Community Board 7 Sunset Park High School Task Force meeting. 4201 Fourth Ave. at 43rd Street. 6 pm. Call (718) 854-0003.

To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail newsroom@brooklynpaper.com or fax (718) 834-9278.

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NORTH BROOKLYN Greenpoint Paper, Williamsburg Paper, Bushwick Paper.

BAY RIDGE Bay Ridge Paper, Bensonhurst Paper.

KENSINGTON-MIDWOOD Midwood Paper, Kensington Paper, Ocean Parkway Paper.

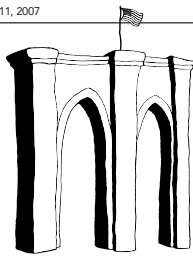
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THE stoop

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN DUMBO

The Heights' stroller derby

Two of the newest stores on Montague Street are offering a service to the neighborhood's burgeoning community of young families — a stroller valet — but in doing so, they just might be reinforcing some bad behavior on the part of our local mommies and daddies.

Five Guys Famous Burgers and Fries opened in July near Henry St., in a space only accessible by walking up a flight of stairs. While it's not a difficult climb, it is enough to put-off parents with a stroller load.

Wanting to maximize their clientele, a prominent sign in its window encourages would-be customers to call for "Stroller Service." Dial the number, and a young employee in red uniform is dispatched to assist you.

Two blocks toward the Promenade, the boutique Blue Rose offers the same service. Shawn Lebold, who has worked there since it opened in November, recognizes a need for stroller valet. "We do actually get a lot of strollers in the store," she said. "A lot of the mommies and nannies from the neighborhood come in."

The gesture of extending assistance to people juggling offspring and life's necessities is certainly a good thing. But with the new demand for "stroller valet," it's impossible to ignore the fact that strollers are bigger than ever. It's not uncommon to see a toddler riding to Harry Chapin Park in something akin to a monster truck.

Top it off with groceries, toys, umbrellas and diaper bags, and it's no wonder these parents need assistance.

Parents carting an army of supplies pose a problem when they commandeer a sidewalk, cafe or grocery aisle.

Jennifer Flynn, 31, said she has been "boxed in" at the Heights Cafe on several occasions. "No one ever thinks to fold up their stroller and put it aside. It's way too common to see a stroller used as a receptacle for their stuff, blocking people in and causing a hazard without much thought," she said.

Ryan Kulick, 26, tells his son Henry, 2, to the Brooklyn Heights playgrounds in a "Bob Sport Utility Stroller," and appreciates its off-roading capabilities, even if it is only used on the Promenade. "It's an easy ride, is not as cumbersome as some of the others and is quite maneuverable."

Living in the Heights, it's no surprise to find a preponderance of fancy prams. But does that give parents carte blanche to compromise our public space?

Brooklyn Heights may be an idyllic neighborhood, but it is not the suburbs. Sidewalks are small, cafes are cozy and bookstores are packed to the brim. There is definitely a finite amount of space. Heights moms and dads should take that into account before investing \$400 in one of these monstrosities.

Juliana Bunim is a writer who lives in Brooklyn Heights.

THE KITCHEN SINK

Congratulations to **Juliana Bunim**, **Robert Hudak-Zikowski**, **Joe Lim** and **Howard Sider** who made the Dean's List of Binghamton University's Harper College of Arts and Sciences. ... **Tyra Banks** was spotted getting into her SUV on Montague and Henry streets. Word has it she's dating local, Utendahl Capital Partners honcho, **John Utendahl**. ... **The Brooklyn Chapter of the American Red Cross** is looking for volunteers to play evacuated residents in a mock emergency exercise on Aug. 25. Go to myredcross.org. Email: Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com

HEIGHTS LOWDOWN



By Juliana Bunim



Watch the birdie

Our photographer spotted the Christopher Columbus statue in front of the state Supreme Court building accompanied by a feathery friend.



The Brooklyn Paper / Tom Cavan

Free yoga — by the pool

By Dana Rubinstein

Yogis tired of forking over \$20 a pop to practice their downward dogs at the gym can now contort their bodies for free at the Floating Pool Lady.

In an effort to promote the temporary recreational asset docked near the foot of Joralemon Street, the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy and a neighborhood gym are offering free yoga classes three times a week through Aug. 30.

The classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m., at the beach alongside the Floating Pool Lady.

"Whatever your fitness level, or taste, we've got something for you at the floating pool at Brooklyn Bridge Park Beach," boasted Marianna Koval, the Conservancy's president.

The beach, which has been open since July, is also hosting beach volleyball, sand soccer, and adult swim hours.

Jodi Francis, president of the

Brooklyn Bridge Park Defense Fund, a critic of the state's plans for the waterfront development project, has been a frequent patron.

"I go almost every day to swim there," she said. "The problem is that it floats away on Sept. 3, after a mere eight weeks, never to be seen in the park again."

Francis asked: "How is it that this, the most expensive park to create and maintain, still has no plan for a permanent pool or ice rink or indoor field facility?"

Brooklyn Bridge Park is a planned condominium, commercial and open space development stretching along the Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO waterfront.

Be that as it may, the Conservancy estimates that more than 45,000 have visited the beach in the four weeks it's been open, many waiting more than an hour in line for the privilege of taking a dip.

For more information on pool and beach activities, call (718) 222-9742.

ON OUR OTHER stoop

PAGES

FORT GREENE Barking mad

RED HOOK Submarine stunt

BUSHWICK Not a dog's life

BAY RIDGE Kill that tree!

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At the annual National Night Out Against Crime outside Borough Hall on Aug. 7, clockwise from top left: 84th Precinct Community Council leader Leslie Lewis receives a certificate of merit from Assemblywoman Joan Millman, goats charmed in the petting zoo, the Gowanus Wildcats danced, and Tomann Marino showed off her freshly painted face.



The Brooklyn Paper / Tom Cavan

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THE STOOP

CARROLL GARDENS-COBBLE HILL BOERUM HILL RED HOOK

Easiest way to keep cool is here

The "Double D" swimming pool sits between Douglass and De-graw street (hence the name), a chlorinated lake in a valley of concrete and brick lots — surreal as a swimming pool floating in the East River, but no one is making postcards.

The towering tenements of the Wyckoff Houses loom to the north, and low-slung, smog-colored warehouses sit to the south. A church steeple several long blocks west in Carroll Gardens is the most romantic thing on the horizon. But while this landscape doesn't add up to much when compared to the glistening East River surroundings of the flashy bayside pool, at least a few swimmers are voting with their water-wrinkled feet and going to Double D. In some circles, it has become a proudly inglorious counterpart to Brooklyn Heights Floating Lady.

"Let's face it, this is the least romantic place possible for a pool," said Spike McClure, speaking from a plastic chaise recliner on the deck of the Double D. "But I don't come to the pool for the view."

"If I want a view I'll go to the Promenade. If I want to swim, I'll come here," McClure concluded.

I was hoping to get in a swim myself last Sunday when I arrived at the floating pool at 3:15 for the 3:30 swim session. Looking back, my naïveté shocks me. The scene was like Disneyland all over again, except the only ride in sight was the on-ramp to the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway. Children were running back and forth between the pool's sandy "beach" and the line of overreached adults, asking when they would be able to swim and if they could buy French fries at the concession stand. A woman murmured into a cell phone about the "awesome view" and told at least 12 other people that they should meet her there. Other people stared crabbily ahead, at the long procession of backs that separated them from the glorious riverfront bay they had come for. A woman carrying a clipboard lifted a tan arm and pointed to the people snaking.

"You should have been here an hour and a half ago," she said.

The early bird gets the worm, indeed. I left without touching a drop of water, unless you count sweat.

The next day I went swimming at the reliable Double D. A whistle pierced the air as I entered the pool yard. A woman had been caught trying to steal into the unguarded kiddie pool over a cheery yellow brick wall.

"That lady jumped up the wall and so now the kids are gonna think they can, too," one lifeguard remarked to another, shouting over the insistent track of a handball game in Thomas Green park next to the pool.

It was a fast, refreshing swim. On the way home, I stopped on Columbus Street to watch the best set.

There was no line for that, either.

Ariella Cohen is a staff reporter for The Brooklyn Paper



Ariella Cohen

Hook amused by sub stunt



Police prepare to haul away artist's wooden submarine from the shore of Red Hook after it got too close to the Queen Mary 2, which was docked nearby.

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Paper
Marine mischief agrees with Red Hook.

A homemade submarine's red-alert encounter with the Queen Mary 2 was a cause for celebration this week, with residents cheering the stunt and even offering to help cover legal bills for the sub's maker — a Carroll Gardens artist who was apprehended by a flotilla of federal and city security agents after attempting to shoot a video of himself against the gargantuan white belly of the Red Hook-berthed cruise ship for an upcoming gallery show.

"I was tremendously impressed," said Zeph Courtney, who began celebrating submarine maker and artist Philip "Dale" Riley's feat even before it occurred. "He told us he couldn't tell us too much because of security stuff," Courtney said.

It turned out Riley had every reason to be worried about "security stuff." The artist had not notified the police or Coast Guard before launching his submarine — a plywood and fiberglass replica of America's first, an oak, egg-shaped Revolutionary War-era vessel known as the "Turtle." But when the eight-foot sub veered into the security zone of the Cunard luxury liner, they noticed — and Riley, who managed to bob within 200 feet of the cruise ship's bow, ended his waterborne performance in custody, a team of federal and local cops surrounding him.

On Friday and Saturday, as TV newscasters and the daily tabloids ridiculed the "sub-standard" stunt as the work of "stooges," Red Hook celebrated the bizarre act of what NYPD Police Commissioner called "marine mischief."

It was jubilant on Van Bunt Street, said Chris Curren, who watched the spectacle from a waterfront pier.

"I felt kind of proud to see history being used in such a creative way," added Josie Hiller, a history student living in Red Hook.

Hiller said that she would contribute cash to cover the artist's legal fees, if need be.

"It's free speech," she said.

Riley, who built his sub in a woodworking studio on Pier 41 in Red Hook, received summonses from the NYPD and the Coast Guard for violating a safety zone, creating a hazardous condition and operating his rudderless sub recklessly. He will appear in court on Aug. 28.

Big buildings on fast track

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Paper

Building projects are picking up pace in Carroll Gardens as city officials consider a preservation-minded change in zoning that would limit the size of new buildings.

If passed, it would force developers to change their plans to fit with new low-rise regulations — potentially costing them hundreds of thousands of dollars in condo sales and architectural fees.

"Look at the number of buildings under construction, it's a race against the clock for them," said Maria Pagano, president of the Carroll Gardens Neighborhood Association and an advocate of the rezoning, which would limit building heights to 50 feet, or five stories, across a broad stretch of the Brownstone neighborhood.

It will take at least another eight months for the proposed change to become law. Buildings that have foundations dug before the change is made will be grandfathered in under the current rules, which allow buildings to rise 70 feet.

A worker on the site of a residential development at 100 Luquer St. said that the project, which would be illegal under the proposed zoning — was running at top speed.

"We are going to be working

full days from now on," he said.

The tower, designed by post-modern starchitect Karl Fischer, will rise between Clinton and Henry streets overlooking the highway, construction has begun on a 60-foot residential building. That building would be also be illegal under the rezoning. The building is now in excavation stages.

On the other side of the neighborhood, builders are putting finishing touches on a blocky 55-foot condo at 342 Bond St. near the Carroll Street bridge. Building plans for a controversial 70-foot condo building at 360 Smith St. have already been approved and engineers were on the site this week doing preliminary work.

The Department of City Planning declined to give any details on a timeline for a Carroll Gardens rezoning. A spokeswoman said that officials "recognize the need to study Carroll Gardens and work with community and elected officials to address the zoning."

Carroll Gardens is not the only neighborhood that has approached the city with a rezoning proposal, creating a demand for planning services that Pagano and others worry will slow the tortoise-like process even more.

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KITCHEN SINK

Straight outta Albany: Gov. Spitzer has signed into law a Brooklyn-born law that will give local Community Boards the right to compete for state planning grants. Zoning geeks everywhere are rejoicing. Email Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com

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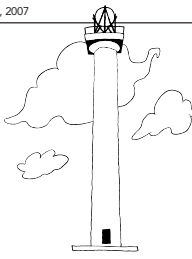
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THE STOOP

FORT GREENE-CLINTON HILL

Whitman's not falling just yet

The Housing Authority swears up and down it has no plans to convert the Whitman-Ingersoll Houses into private condos. Why, then, have these rumors persisted?

First, as Ed Brown, the head of the Ingersoll Tenants Association, pointed out, public housing tenants have ample fodder for existential anxiety. They've watched their neighborhood transform into one of luxury condos, multi-million-dollar brownstones, and \$125 kronas. When, exactly, are they supposed to fit in?



Dana Rubinstein

Then there's another issue at play: the blogosphere. On Aug. 2, in a posting entitled, "What's really going on at the Ingersoll Houses?" Brownstoner.com reported that Ron Herscho (developer of the luxury high-rise, the Oro) told a meeting of local real estate types at the Brooklyn Historical Society that the public houses would be converted to middle-income units.

Brownstoner's report was picked up by other online outlets. As the saying goes, a lie can travel half way around the world before the truth gets its boots on. A couple of hours later, Brownstoner later posted a correction: "We just received the following statement from Ron Herscho's attorney, Ron answered the question based on what he had been told by Bob Scaroni a couple of years ago. He has no current information regarding the Housing Authority's plan. We apologize for any confusion."

This isn't the first time Brownstoner helped spark hysteria by failing to use the telephone. On July 27, it posted an article — "Illegal paint job on landmarked block of Clinton Hill" — alongside a photo of a lovely brownstone partially painted white. The ensuing online uproar was deafening. Fortunately, the Daily News walked over to the house and asked its 92-year-old owner what was going on. It turned out the white substance was primer. "Blows sure got the word — the wrong word — out very quickly," said Housing Authority spokesman Howard Marder, of the Whitman-Ingersoll Houses incident. The right word, according to Marder, is that the city has no plans to turn over the houses to private developers.

"I've been saying that for five years," said Marder, in frustration. He's been saying it ever since the city began a \$150-million modernization of the buildings. The refurbishment of the apartments and their 61 elevators has necessitated moving residents out of their homes in stages. The city has promised tenants that they will return starting this fall.

Given the often-risky relations between residents of public housing and the city, and the insane pace of development in the neighborhood, it's no surprise that those being moved out are somewhat dubious.

The higher that anxiety level, the more incumbent it is upon us — professional journalists and citizen-journalists, — to at least try to discern the truth.

Dana Rubinstein is a staff reporter for The Brooklyn Paper.

KITCHEN SINK

The Clinton Hill Co-op is hosting its annual block party on Aug. 11 from 11 am to 7 pm, featuring kiddie rides, karaoke, dancing and free food and drinks, on Clinton Avenue, between Willowbury and Myrtle avenues. — **Hebebe Outpost**, Fort Greene's eco-eatery, will unveil its new water reclamation feature on Aug. 25. — **E-mail:** Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com

GREENE ACRES

Barking mad over fountain

Owners of hot dogs seek relief in Ft. Greene Park

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Paper
Fort Greene dog owners have had it up to their snouts with the Parks Department, which has failed to deliver a new doggie water fountain to Fort Greene Park, even though the funding for it was allocated three years ago.

"I understand it's a little thing," said Nancy Peterson, the president of Fort Greene Park Users and Pets Society (PUPS), the organization of more than 300 dog-owners that lobbied Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Fort Greene) for the \$5,000 allocation. "But you know what? Other parks have gotten it done."

The Parks Department confirmed that Hillside Park in Brooklyn Heights already has two fountains that can accommodate both dogs and humans, just like the fountain that was slated for Fort Greene Park.

In the meantime, the PUPS and their puppies have had to make do with the existing doggie fountain in Fort Greene Park, a three-foot-tall green cube with a spigot attached that empties water into a drain-less metal basin. Dogs end up drinking the water that pools there, and which often gets mixed with mud and sticks.

"When it's hot out, it gets really nasty," said Amy Hecht, another PUPS member, as she walked her dogs Diego and Carly in the park on a Thursday morning.

About 50 other dogs and owners were also stretching their legs in the park. Many ended up at the aforementioned water fountain, where owners had their hands full shooting their dogs away from the pool of feld water and towards the spigot spewing fresh water.

The Parks Department acknowledges that it has taken a bit longer than normal to



Buckeye and Maya (with their mistress Courtney) at the current dog fountain, which lacks a drainage system.

spend the funds for the new fountain.

"It usually does not take such a long time, and we are now trying to expedite the process and make up for lost time," said Phil Abramson, an agency spokesman. Abramson chalked up the delays to bureaucracy.

"The installation of a new fountain with drainage is a larger project than is done in-house, hence the need for a contractor," he explained. "But \$5,000 is too small of a job

to have its own contract so we're combining it with improvements to the park's basketball courts. It is currently out to bid and we hope to have a contractor in place so work can begin in the fall."

But Peterson, the PUPS president, wasn't buying it. "I understand bureaucracy, but this is ridiculous," she said. "Just someone hook up the fountain, put in a drainage field, and let's move on."

Median wanted for Carlton Ave.

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Paper

The city will lay down a concrete median along a busy Fort Greene avenue this fall,

completing a six-month transformation of a thoroughfare that is supposed to make the

street safer, but which has, in the interim, made it more perilous for pedestrians, according to one resident.

In May, the Department of Transportation began implementing a Community Board-approved plan to turn Carlton Avenue, between Park and Myrtle avenues, from a one-way street to a two-way street. But an integral part of that plan — the concrete median down the center — was left incomplete.

The result, according to Carlton Avenue resident Robert Poles, is a pedestrian nightmare. "The block continues to suf-

fer speeding, only now two-way speeding," said Poles.

Poles would rather the city scrap the whole plan and just put down speed humps and more signage.

But, as Ted Timbers, a spokesman for DOT, pointed out, the city's strategy for the avenue has the support of a broad consensus of the community, Poles excepted.

"The Borough President, the Community Board, elected officials, all are on the same page on this project," said Timbers. "We've got a good consensus here."

Timbers said the median would be complete by this fall.

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August 11, 2007

Ratner robbed at Atlantic Yards

By Gersh Kuntzman,
Ariella Cohen and
Chris Cascarano
The Brooklyn Paper

One of Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards construction sites was robbed of hundreds of dollars in equipment, cops said.

According to the police report, Forest City Ratner Companies said that unknown perps entered the construction site — on Pacific Street, between Fifth

POLICE BLOTTER

and Sixth avenues — between 1:30 pm on Aug. 1 and 9 am on Aug. 3 and stole two \$300 saws, two \$300 drill sets, a \$500 generator, and a \$400 hammer.

It is unclear why no one apparently noticed the alleged crime for most of the day Wednesday and all of Thursday be-



man they found a knife, brass knuckles, and marijuana in his pockets.

Hungry hit

A Papa John's delivery boy was robbed of a large pizza on August 8 at 10 pm on Clinton Street near Mill Street, police said.

The pizza man was knocked off his bike by the robber, who took the pizza and ran. The hood didn't take any cash from the delivery boy.

Sword dancer

A Second Street resident lost a laptop computer, a digital camera, a video camera and a decorative sword in a daylight break-in on July 30.

Cops said the perp or perps entered through a window of the flat, which is at Fifth Avenue, between 9:30 am and 9 pm. The decorative sword was valued at \$100, but had vast personal value, a source said.

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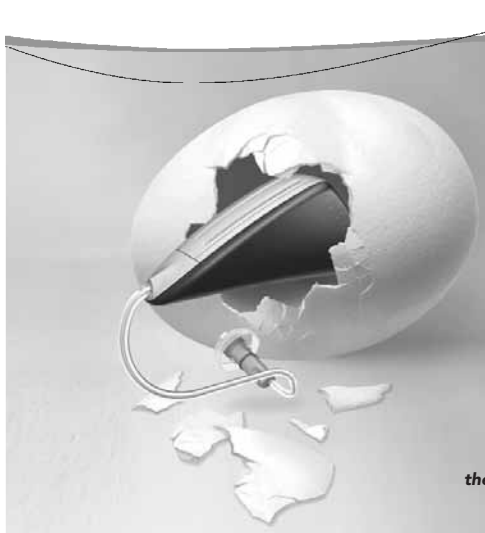
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Force against crime

84th Precinct Officers Sharon Palacia, David Gong, Benny Ocasio and Jim Gipson with kids Evan Goldstein, 9, Alexandra Kirtchuk, 7, Joseph Fandel, 8, at the National Night Out Against Crime, outside Borough Hall on Aug. 7.

near Lauger Street on Aug. 8 at 11:40 am and held up the clerk, police said. The robbers threatened the 19-year-old with a black handgun and locked him in the basement while the cash register was emptied.

The clerk remained in the locked basement until someone heard him yelling.

Karl-ching.

A 15-year-old lost his bike when a hood he appeared to know knocked him off onto the ground and sped off on the silver and black Mongoose, police said.

Flying cup

A woman suffered serious lacerations after being struck with a glass cup allegedly thrown by her boyfriend on July 28, in an apartment at Adelphi Street near Flushing Avenue.

Pellet Gun

A 19-year-old man was arrested after allegedly shooting a police car with a pellet gun from a fifth floor window in an apartment on North Elliott Place near Auburn Place, at 6 pm on Aug. 8.

Theft

A man was arrested for looting a construction site on Ashland Place near Fulton Street site on Aug. 5. Police say they witnessed the 39-year-old man collecting ladders and other tools from the construction site at 10:15 pm.

When they apprehended the

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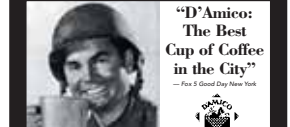
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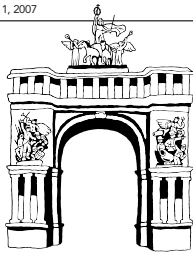
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THE STOOP

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Deeper look at Domino history

Last week, in Part I of this story, we promised to tell you how north Brooklyn survived the Great Depression, why Coca-Cola is sweetened with corn syrup, where the Metropolitan Museum got all those Impressionist paintings and how tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans and Dominicans came to live in Williamsburg.

It is impossible to answer any of these questions without knowing the story of the Havemeyer family sugar fortune and the greatest Havemeyer of them all, the peerless monopolist and robber baron H. O. Havemeyer.

Today, we live in a country in which trust, as in antitrust, is a very bad word. With a few exceptions — public utilities like Con Edison and Keyspan, and Major League Baseball — business monopolies are illegal. In the latter years of the 19th century, however, trusts were a fact of everyday life. There was a beef trust, an oil trust and even a whiskey trust. These were business arrangements under which a small number of capitalists manipulated markets, setting prices and wages for an industry. One of the greatest of these was the Sugar Trust, largely controlled by one man, H. O. Havemeyer.

Throughout the 1880s, his brother Theodore — remembered by some as the patriarch of American golf — had gobbled up most of the east coast competitors to the family sugar company, creating the world's largest sugar refinery along the East River. Not satisfied with profiting from the sweat of hundreds of thousands of poor Caribbeans, Theodore ruthlessly exploited American workers in Greenpoint and Williamsburg, at times calling in the police to fire at striking labor unionists. Some of them shot back and the cobblestones of Kent Avenue ran red with blood.

"The men were blindly led to strike by agitators, by Socialists and Communists," he told the Brooklyn Daily Eagle. "In 1891 H. O. Havemeyer succeeded to the title of 'Sugar King,' forming the American Sugar Refining Company, maker of the famous Domino brand. Under H. O., American Sugar gained control of the Cuban and Hawaiian sugar cane fields, as well as all of the western U.S. markets. As he expanded into coffee, banks and railroads, Havemeyer became so balleheaded that he thrust his nose at a subpoena from the U.S. Senate — he was arrested, put on trial and, ultimately, acquitted. In 1898, when the Cuban fight for independence from Spain began to burn his business interest of \$200 million per year, he demanded and got American military intervention.

According to the Encyclopedia of New York City, "the American Sugar Refining Company accounted directly and indirectly for 98 percent of the national production by 1907." H. O. Havemeyer also used his vast political influence to bring about tariffs on imported refined sugar, while exempting the raw sugar imports that fed his refinery. "The tariff is the mother of trusts," he blandly explained.

As any economist will tell you, monopolies are inefficient and, in time, will bring about their own destruction. This was also true of the Sugar Trust, but while it lasted, H. O. Havemeyer's life's work made him an immense amount of money. To be fair, not all of its net effects were evil. Nothing as big and as complex as the Sugar Trust can be all good or all bad. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, while millions of American workers nearly starved, thousands of families in north Brooklyn put food on the table thanks to jobs at American Sugar. Even today, it is hard to find a longtime resident of the neighborhood who did not work at the refinery or who cannot name a relative who did.

In 1932 and 1933 — in the midst of the Depression — the company made record profits. Employing over 5,000 men and women, American Sugar was considered one of the stablest and best-run companies in the country.

Before WWII, sugar served as the sole sweetener of soft drinks, candy and baked goods. Without significant competition from artificial sweeteners, beet sugar or corn syrup, cane sugar consumption reached an all-time high.

Next week: The conclusion of the story, including what Mrs. Havemeyer did with her husband's money, how Edgar Degas paid the rent, what happened to the Caribbean cane fields and why no sugar is being refined at the Domino Sugar refinery today.

Tom Gilbert is a Greenpoint-based historian and writer.

GUEST COLUMN



Tom Gilbert

Storm may have caused collapse

Neighbors out on street: We saw it coming

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

While the Park Slope area was spared any tornadoes during Wednesday's killer storm, a South Slope building did collapse — possibly because of the torrential rain.

Now, a family has been ordered to evacuate its home after the three-story building's wall went down. They say they've been warning the city and the building's owner about its dangerous state for years.

"I was in the basement of my house in my music studio, when I heard a noise like someone dragging a large piece of furniture across the ceiling above me, except that it went on for 20 seconds, and you could feel the house shaking," said Andrew Mason, who, along with his parents, wife and two young children, had to vacate his home on Wednesday.

"I ran upstairs to see what was happening, and when I realized there wasn't anything going on in my house, I looked out the front door," recalled Mason. "It



This abandoned building on Jackson Place partially collapsed on Wednesday afternoon.

was just white dust. I got a washcloth to cover my face, and I knew right away what had happened — we had kind of been expecting something like this for a while."

Indeed the house next door, at 18-20 Jackson Place, between 16th Street and Prospect Avenue,

has been a source of anxiety in the neighborhood for at least two years — ever since it was sold for \$1.1 million to a development group called J1 Development LLC. Since then, the owners have submitted at least three construction plans to the Buildings Department, all of which have been denied. Meanwhile, the house has been gutted and left open to the elements.

About a year ago, according to Mason, a crack began developing along the northeast wall. "It just kept getting bigger and bigger," said Mason. "From my backyard, you could see the interior of the house, which they had gutted, and you could see that wall starting to bow."

Mason said he proceeded to send letter after letter and photo after photo to local elected officials and to the Buildings Department.

"The buildings inspectors would tick some violation on the door, and aside from the violations sitting there getting wet in the rain, nothing ever happened," said Mason.

John Rice, who lives two houses down from the collapsed building, expressed similar frustration.

"Between snow storms and garbage and crackheads, and a family of raccoons living there, it's been a very problematic building... We knew this was going to happen, we've been telling everyone it was going to happen, and finally it did happen. That no one was killed is just amazing."

Mark Zeldin, the developer, was reached on his cell phone on Thursday, but said he was in the Department of Buildings offices and could not talk.

"No comment at this time," said Zeldin. "We're going to knock [the rest of the building] down today."

The Buildings Department confirmed that the city's Department of Housing and Preservation Development would complete demolition of the building.

In a statement, the department said, "While the cause of the partial collapse has yet to be determined, preliminary reports

indicate that storm conditions and torrential rain may have contributed to the collapse." Meanwhile, Mason's family has been staying with the Rices. They still have no idea how long the vacate order will last. See **STORM** on page 4

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THE KITCHEN SINK
Cookin' — Our pal David G. Chadsey of Park Slope has been named to the Dean's List for his academic success in chemistry at the University of Rochester. Wonder if he ever made the deans detention list in public school for an experiment during chem. lab. Congrats on the achievement David!
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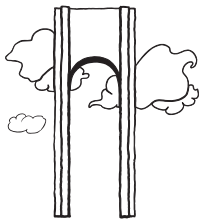
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THE STOOP

BAY RIDGE-BENSONHURST DYKER HEIGHTS BATH BEACH

Is it Bay Ridge Syndrome?

THE recent violent crimes in Bay Ridge, and general lack of information available to the public about them, have caused some residents to call this reporter out. "Enough with the Harry Potter stories," one of my faithful readers told me. "Do your job and find out what is going on with all of this violence in my neighborhood."

Do my job? Alright, I'll just put on my Magnum P.I. flora-colored shirt, run to the crime scene, and get to the bottom of the crime wave. (Cue "Murder She Wrote" theme song.)

But seriously, this isn't easy. "The police aren't saying much" didn't sit well with my reader. "Then what the hell IS your job?" he asked. "My neighbors are in the dark and people are beginning to think the worse."

The man had a point. The recent wave of violent crimes has been followed with little or no information. But whose fault is it, the police for not keeping the public in the know, or the local media for not digging enough?

That question may be debatable, but the belief that the community is desperate for more information is unquestioned. Residents have been on edge this summer about the two violent crimes only weeks apart.

First there was the market intruder who, according to police, raped an off-duty police officer at knifepoint after breaking into her Brooklyn apartment on June 20.

Then popular real estate broker Maggie Okelly, 51, was found stabbed to death at his 100th Street home in the Fort Hamilton section of Bay Ridge on July 19.

No arrests have been made, and police have remained tight-lipped. This silence has fed into that cyberspace bastion of free market rumor mongering — the local blog — which echoed the sentiments shared by my readers. It's been Yellow Hooker's blog, but bloggers have a tendency to be sensationalist — are sometimes unbalanced. Still, more often than not, they have their finger on the pulse of the community.

Last week the blogger (or citizen journalist as some prefer to be called) who wears the moniker "The Bay Ridge Rover" (<http://thebayridgerover.blogspot.com>) accurately described the current atmosphere of paranoia. "Even more unsettling than the recent robbery-homicide of local businessman Okelly in his home is the lack of information surrounding it," declared the Rover. "A public completely in the dark has ramped up speculation regarding the circumstances surrounding Okelly's murder, and the still unsolved sexual assault of an off-duty police officer — all of which took place less than a month apart."

The "Rover" is right about the rumors. The void in information has opened the door to speculations of everything from organized crime, to roaming street gangs, to a prostitution ring. This blogger's final analysis may be a snide Orwellian, but it does touch on the overall chatter still heard in local coffee shops. "Bay Ridge's latest incident, in what's been an unending series of violent crime, claims another victim — an informed community," concluded the Rover.

The growing frustration over the lack of information is understandable, and no one gets it more than this reporter. As for the question of who owns responsibility, Yellow Hooker's believes that while both the police and the media can always do more to dig for truth and keep the public informed, there is something far worse than no information — the wrong information.

Sometimes prudence is the better route, and in the case of these two crimes, it appears that there just isn't a lot of information immediately available (especially for public consumption as far as law enforcement is concerned). In the meantime, residents are doing this community a service by holding local law enforcement, as well as this neighborhood reporter's feet to the fire.

Matthew Lysiak is a regular contributor to The Brooklyn Paper.

KITCHEN SINK

The hot weather has brought out the critters. Raccoon sightings have been on the rise over the last two weeks with the hot weather, and loose garbage, to blame. ... A condo occupying the first and second floors of two attached buildings, at **8622 Parkway and 15 Bay 29th St.**, is on the market for \$15 million. ... Nice wheels. A vintage Soviet army surplus Dnepr motorcycle outfitted with a sidecar has been recently been spotted (and photographed) parked outside of **Skinnifits**, at the corner of 79th Street and Fifth Avenue by Bay Ridge's newest blogger "Right in Bay Ridge" ... Our pal **Anno Yoo** was just named to the Dean's List at Binghamton University, congrats to you Anno. **Email us at Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com**

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Neighbors demand arboricide

By Matthew Lysiak

The Brooklyn Paper

While residents in Brooklyn Heights are trying to save a tree threatened by their co-op board, here in Bay Ridge, neighbors are looking to cut one down.

A White Birch — planted in the backyard at 1026 Bay Ridge Parkway some 30 years ago — has grown into a 60-foot monster whose shedding seeds have been wreaking havoc on gardens and ponds, and terrorizing residents for several years, at least according to neighbors who reside under its hefty shade.

"For years now I've been tolerating it, and tolerating it, and tolerating it, but now I am sick of it," said 85-year-old resident Bill Horne. "Heck, I am not going to tolerate it anymore."

The White Birch is known to arborists as an elegant tree with triangular leaves and bright creamy white bark. The tree's mature fruit is composed of numerous tiny winged seeds that are carried by the wind — to the great consternation of nearby neighbors.

Horne says that the seeds have become such a nuisance that it has drastically altered his quality of life.

"I used to have a pond with some fish in it, but the seeds would fill the pond," said Horne. "They hit me when I come out of my car, my dog when it rains, and you wouldn't believe the sweeping I have to do."

"It is an absolute nightmare," added Horne.

Horne also believes that planting the white birch tree is illegal in Brooklyn, but calls to the Parks Department to a different story.

"Almost anything you plant on your private property we don't take a position on," said a Parks rep. "It would only be illegal if it was planted near the sidewalk."

Planting a tree in the back yard is legal, but a resident would need a special permit to



Bill Horne, 85, says the White Birch in his neighbor's yard has become a quality of life issue.

plant a tree in the grass between the sidewalk and the road, since that poses over public property, according to Parks.

Legal or not, neighbors want the tree to come down.

Another neighbor, who lives on the other side of the massive birch, has also been living under the tree's ominous shade. "It is a pain in the neck and a mess," said Anne McClellan. "It sticks to everything and people don't want to be outside."

Making matters more complicated, the arborizing tree is owned by none other than the president of the Bay Ridge Community Council, Bob Cassara.

Cassara, who was interrupted while on vacation with his family in Florida by The Brooklyn

Paper to be questioned about his foliage, says his neighbors are barking up the wrong tree. "I am well aware that two of my neighbors are unhappy about the tree seeds," Cassara said. "If it is that much of an issue for them I am willing to cut the tree down, but I think it would only be fair if we each paid a third of the \$1,000 it would cost."

Horne thought the deal seemed, in a word, shady.

"Some deal for us," said Horne. "He expects us to pay to have a tree removed that is on his property — that is crazy."

Compromise may not be in full bloom, but that isn't to say Cassara hasn't tried to pass the blame.

Cassara added that he recently

made an attempt to appease his neighbors by having the lower branches trimmed.

He also admits the seeds may be a bit of a nuisance, but believes the beauty of the tree more than compensates for the inconvenience.

"That tree is really something beautiful," said Cassara. "There just aren't many like that big White Birch."

Over the past few weeks, neighbors in Brooklyn Heights have been trying to save an 80-year-old elm tree outside the Mansion House co-op on Hicks Street. The co-op board voted on July 18 to remove the tree rather than spend \$8,000 to reroute electrical pipes tied up in its root system.

Ridge resident is the next Idol

By Matthew Lysiak

The Brooklyn Paper

A local actress may have what it takes to be America's next American idol, or at least cash in a little on Aiken-mania.

Bay Ridge's Dawn Barry-Hansen recently landed a role in the new Off-Broadway musical, "Idol: The Musical."

The show, playing at the 45th Street Theatre in Manhattan, is a satire of the television show "American Idol" and, particularly, the worship of Clay Aiken, one of its more famous finalists.

Barry-Hansen will play the

role of a dance teacher, which isn't much of a stretch considering her experience.

"When I read the role I felt like it was written for me," said Barry-Hansen. "I have choreographed shows in Bay Ridge since 1975, so my role is quite true to life."

This is hardly Barry-Hansen's first time in the limelight.

She practiced her craft as long time member of Bay Ridge Narrows Community Theater, where her many talents were hard to miss.

"Down is really a great tal-

ent," said Narrows Community Theater Vice President Ann Giuberti. "Not only can she act, but she is also a talented dancer, choreographer, and she also recently made her directorial debut at the Narrows Theater."

The curtain opens to the public on Aug. 12 and is billed as "a satirical musical comedy that focuses on the outrageous and delusional fan base of the hit television show," by the musical's web site.

"It is really a great show with a very talented cast," said Barry-Hansen. "I must admit I do watch American Idol, but

this show is really for everyone."

The 45th Street Theatre is located in Manhattan at 354 West 45th St., between Eighth and Ninth Avenues. Tickets, priced \$40 (general admission) and \$25 (student), are available by calling (212) 868-4444 or by visiting www.smartart.com.

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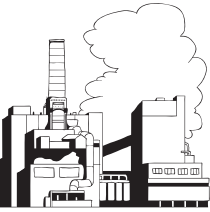
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THE stoop

WILLIAMSBURG—GREENPOINT—BUSHWICK

Sugar story's grand finale

In two earlier columns, we told the story of the how the Havemeyer family produced a series of cunning businesses who built a small family sugar company into one of America's — and the world's — great fortunes.

The most ruthless Havemeyer male of them all was the "Sugar King," H.O. Havemeyer, who from his East River waterfront throne ruled a vast empire that exploited workers from the Caribbean to Asia; inflated sugar prices across the U.S.; and wielded enough political influence to instigate the Spanish-American War.

The family had another side — a patriotic, philanthropic, politically progressive side. A prime exemplar of these qualities was Louise Elker Havemeyer, also known as Mrs. H.O. Havemeyer.

The union of H.O. and Louise took place in the context of an inbred family situation typical of the American WASP elite. The Elkers and the Havemeyers were New York sugar families that performed a complicated merger both at the altar and in the boardroom. From age 15, H.O. was raised by Louise's parents and later married Louise's aunt. H.O.'s older sister married Louise's uncle. Finally, in 1883 H.O. divorced his first wife and married her much younger niece, Louise.

Louise and H.O. complemented each other. Running what at the time was a vast legal monopoly — the American Sugar Refining Company — H.O. perfected the art of making bookends of money. Louise perfected the art of spending it.

Traveling to France as a young woman, Louise befriended the American Impressionist painter Mary Cassatt. One day, the pair spotted a pastel for sale by the then-unknown Edgar Degas. At Mary's urging, Louise bought it for 500 francs, or about \$100. Degas wrote her a thank you note, telling her how badly he needed the money. (The same pastel was sold by Louise's grandson in 1965 for \$410,000.)

This was the beginning of a productive partnership. As Louise later said, "Miss Cassatt was ever ready to recommend, Mr. Havemeyer to buy, and I to find a place for, the pictures in her gallery."

Throughout the first two decades of the 20th century, the Havemeyers assembled an astonishing art collection. Pursuing European treasures with the same aggressiveness that he employed in swallowing up business competitors, H.O. became furious when the Italian government prevented him from exporting Botticelli's Birth of Venus.

Nevertheless, besides numerous Degas, the pair was able to buy hundreds, if not thousands, of works by Veronese, Rubens, Rembrandt, El Greco, Goya, Corot, Cezanne, Renoir, Monet and Manet.

The Havemeyers' Romanesque mansion at Fifth Avenue and 66th street put the best of America's public art museums to shame. Mrs. Havemeyer's passions also extended to radical politics. She bankrolled the women's suffrage movement, giving fiery speeches enlivened by an automated model of the Mayflower covered with strings of electric light bulbs. She was even arrested trying to burn an effigy of President Wilson during a demonstration on the White House lawn. Refusing to pay a \$5 fine, she spent three days in jail.

Meanwhile, back at the plantation, H.O. and the Sugar Trust were dealt a series of business reversals at the hands of Teddy Roosevelt and his antitrust laws. A 1921 consent decree reduced American Sugar's effective control of the industry from 72 percent to 24 percent.

H.O. Havemeyer put up a tenuous defense. He popularized the Domino brand with its trademark white tablets and convinced Congress to support the price of sugar in order to discourage foreign imports.

H.O. is long gone, but his innovations are still with us, even if they have not always had the effect intended by their inventor. Because of price supports, which have kept the price of sugar in the United States as high as four or five times the international price, eventually led many soft drink and candy makers to switch from cane sugar to high fructose corn syrup, a sweetener that many health experts blame for today's American epidemic of obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

Price supports have also devastated the economies of sugar-growing regions such as the Caribbean. This has had two further effects: to cause social and political disruption that has necessitated frequent visits by the U.S. military; and to provoke mass immigration, especially by Puerto Ricans, who as American citizens have found it easy to come to New York to find jobs to replace those lost by the willful destruction of the Caribbean sugar industry.

The irony of this is particularly stark in Williamsburg. Tens of thousands of Caribbean immigrants and their descendants have outstayed H.O. Havemeyer's mighty Domino sugar refinery, yet are no longer needed now that raw sugar imports have been divided. Indeed, the faded factory itself will soon be converted to thousands of apartments, mostly luxury.

The story of Louise Havemeyer ends with a staggering act of philanthropy and humility. When she died at 73 in 1929, she left more than 1,000 paintings and sculptures to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Havemeyer collection remains the biggest single part of the Met. Unlike most benefactors, however, Louise gave her gift with no requirements that her name be attached or that the works be exhibited in a certain way.

"I have made very few stipulations in my will in regard to the placing or care of the collection because I believe there are those who are as intelligent and as interested as I in the care and conservation of a valuable gift," she wrote.

In the words of art critic Michael Kimmelman, "One of the ultimate tributes that can be paid to Louise and Henry Osborne Havemeyer is that very few of the Metropolitan's visitors today have a clue as to who they were."

Tom Gilbert is a historian and writer who lives in Greenpoint.



Tom Gilbert

In Bushwick, life isn't for the dogs

Dirty streets among the problems faced by pet owners

By Chris Casciaro
for The Brooklyn Paper

Pet owners who see the backyards and quiet residential streets of east Williamsburg and Bushwick as a doggie heaven might want to think again.

Many newcomers to the quickly gentrifying neighborhoods are finding that life there can be difficult for their friends.

Their litany of complaints, which includes the preponderance of indigenous fighting dogs and dangerous waste on the streets with heavy truck traffic, have been discussed at the blog bushwickbitch.com.

"I moved here because the apartments were perfect for pets," said Matt Magee, who relocated from Arizona. "But the neighborhood is just not safe for dogs."

To some newcomers, the "fighting dogs" — mostly pit bulls — are the biggest threat.

There is a lot of dog fighting in Bushwick, said Jamison Brownson, who claimed to have adopted a fighting dog he found left for dead on a nearby street. If you walk your dog by one of the dogs trained to fight, they will attack it," he said.

To help solve the problem, Lardie is seeking a fenced-off



Matt Magee attempts to corral a stray dog on Ingham Street near Morgan Avenue in Bushwick.

dog run in nearby Maria Hernandez Park.

The run would help keep dogs off the garbage-cluttered streets in the neighborhoods.

"There are chicken bones all over the street," said Lardie. "And they can splinter in dogs' throats if they try to eat them."

Other residents fear their dogs may be exposed to the dirty water that floods the gutters, which they say can include runoff from small steel shops.

"Ugly red-colored water pours down the gutter and my dog always wants to drink it," said one dog owner who didn't want to give his name. "It's red-colored and I don't even know what it is in."

Industry in the neighborhood brings an abundance of trucks, which pose another threat to dogs.

"A [stray] dog wandering around here will just get hit by a truck," said Matt Magee, who found a bread-loaf sized dog among the factories on Tuesday.

"I've done this a bunch of times," said Magee as he stood at the corner of Bogart and Grattan streets with the tired, scared dog in a duffel bag while he searched for its owner.

"I just can't leave a dog out here," he said. "This just isn't a safe place for dogs."

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women's suffrage movement, giving fiery speeches enlivened by an automated model of the Mayflower covered with strings of electric light bulbs. She was even arrested trying to burn an effigy of President Wilson during a demonstration on the White House lawn. Refusing to pay a \$5 fine, she spent three days in jail.

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City's racking up bikes on Bedford Ave.

By Chris O'Connell
for The Brooklyn Paper

Hipsters with bikes commuting from Williamsburg into Manhattan have a hassle-free ride to look forward to — if everything goes as planned.

In an effort to eliminate automobile congestion and provide Bedford Avenue station-boarding L train riders a safe place to leave their bikes for eight-plus hours a day, the Department of Transportation has installed nine new bike racks outside what Deputy Press Secretary for the DOT Chris Gilbride refers to as the "mass transit hub of Williamsburg."

Gilbride says that the main reason for the new racks is to discourage commuters from North Brooklyn to Manhattan from driving their cars to the subway.

This is the first time we've removed car space to accommodate bike parking in New York City," he said. "Anyone who has been to Williamsburg knows that this is important, as cycling is booming in the neighborhood."

The initiative, part of the City Racks Program — which has installed 600 new bike racks in Brooklyn since 1996 — will, depending on who you ask, accommodate 30 extra cyclists or merely create a target for bike thieves in the neighborhood.

Some riders, like Greenpoint-dwelling graphic designer Benjamin Running, applaud

the city's actions, saying, "I rarely rode my bike to the Bedford stop before the new racks were installed because there was rarely space available for bike parking. Every sign post, street light, fence and whatever else had bikes locked to it."

He said the new racks raised awareness of the increased bike congestion at Bedford Avenue.

"Abandoned bikes had built up over time, so many of the available spots were kind of permanently occupied," says Running. "There were also several raids where police removed locked bikes with no notice. This was not a friendly environment for locking your bike."

However, several bike-to-L regulars, like Greenpoint writer/activist Chris Thomason, say that this increased attention to the locked-up bikes has already turned negative.

"At first I was pretty excited about the new racks at Bedford," he said. "Then last week as I was locking it up there, a girl walked over and told me her bike had just been stolen from that exact bike rack the night before. She just stared at me until I was spooked into biking to Lorimer Street station and locking it in front of the nice, safe pizzeria."

Craig Murphy, a south Williamsburg resident, often rides his bike all the way to Harlem, where he works as an Anti-Hunger Community Organizer. Like Thomason, he rarely utilizes the new racks, as he feels that



Bike racks near the L-train subway station on Bedford Avenue allow commuters a more secure car-free trek to Manhattan.

there aren't enough to accommodate the plethora of new riders.

"It's still a pain to find a nearby spot to lock up," said Murphy.

"It seems like there are certainly more bikes locked up around there these days, which to me means that the demand is still exceeding the supply and they should really work on that."

While reactions to the bike racks have been both positive and negative, the Department of Transportation views the racks as an integral part of PLANET 2030, an initiative unveiled by

Mayer Bloomberg on Earth Day that is zeroing in on cycling as a major solution to environmental concerns in the city.

In addition to the racks, which can be requested in any other neighborhood by dialing 311 and filing a report, the city also has a three-year bike lane expansion plan underway as well as the inception of the official NYC bike helmet, which has been distributed for free to over 3000 city bikes this year.

However, getting Williamsburg hipsters to nix up their deliberate cars will be an entirely different, arduous task in itself.

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LETTERS

Fixing rubber band problem a stretch

To the editor,

After reading Gersh Kuntzman's column about postal workers who litter local streets with used rubber bands ("Time to 'band' together in Slope," July 28), I was reminded of my own experience battling this persistent problem.

A few years ago, I phoned the Times Plaza Station (on Atlantic Avenue in Boerum Hill) and, like Gersh, suggested that the postal workers recycle the rubber bands and save the USPS money. For about a month, there was an improvement, but the rubber bands soon reappeared.

Now I just collect them and give them back to my mail carrier once in a while. It's just easier than tackling the larger problem.

R.K. Dillon, Park Slope

To the editor,

I have a suggestion after reading the rubber band column: Perhaps the Postal Service should print little newspaper articles on those rubber bands. Then the letter carriers can just throw them on our stoops.

Alex Holdsworth, Park Slope

A true Angel

To the editor,

The Broken Angel should be saved ("Plea for Broken Angel," Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Edition and online, Aug. 8).

When I saw this fantastic building for the first time I was highly inspired. I would want to live in such a building. The Broken Angel reminded me of buildings by Gaudi, the famous Spanish architect and artist. But his buildings are in Barcelona. In New York City, they probably would not have been allowed.

It is deadly for art if decisions are made by people who do not understand art and do not travel to other places to get inspired. The Buildings Department should be proud of the Broken Angel and do everything to help save it!

Some rules are not written in books... and great new inventions can only come true if someone has the guts to give it a try. From an architectural point of view, there is not much excitement here to see Brooklyn, so it would be great to see

some more extravagant buildings instead of these ugly high rises. It is a disgrace that architectural art is not recognized in a so-called "world city."

Sena Muhlmann, Downtown

D'town praise

To the editor,

I am writing in response to recent quote by my colleague, Joseph Aquino, regarding the potential of Downtown Brooklyn ("Marty casts his line for Nordstrom," July 28).

Prudential Douglas Elliman has had a thriving base in Brooklyn for more than 20 years. Our firm truly believes in Downtown Brooklyn and the future of the area, and we are thrilled with such recent developments as the opening of a new Trader Joe's in the Atlantic Avenue corridor.

Given the opportunity to comment on the topic, I would have painted a more optimistic and possibly more insightful picture of Downtown Brooklyn's bright retail potential and promise.

Prudential Douglas Elliman is proud of the work we have done in Downtown Brooklyn, and the role we have been able to play — along with so many other dedicated firms and individuals — in its continued revitalization.

Faith Hope Consolo, Manhattan
The writer is chairman of the retail leasing and sales division for Prudential Douglas Elliman Real Estate

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ALL DRAWN OUT



the curriculum previously excluded by European institutions. He endeavored to expand the American idea of education beyond the works of Western of Europe, to include literature from the non-traditional English speaking world. His department included the studies for Eastern literature and the literatures and myths of Native Americans (a radical idea at the time).

Fiercely abolitionist, his "Poems on Slavery" (1842) attacked the so-called Peculiar Institution. His poem "The Slave Singing at Midnight" not only called for all Americans to listen to the unique and diverse literary voices that emanated from African-American authors who Longfellow championed as the future of American Literature — and he was right.

Longfellow found translation to be the cornerstone of American education. Writing the first American Translation of Dante's "The Divine Comedy," Longfellow saw our knowledge of diverse languages to be only hope for a distinct American education.

Changing the school's name is an act which lacks character and an understanding of the diverse people past, present and future, who constitute the very complex fabric of our nation's diverse cultures and languages.

I am appalled that the schools' English teachers have done nothing to stop it. We who live here in Brooklyn do have a large immigrant population and with that population comes many different languages.

Ben Rose, neighborhood withheld

Bearing Witness

To the editor,

Juliana Bustin's column, "The Witnesses Next Door" (Aug. 8), reminded me of a day when Jehovah's Witnesses visited my parent's farmhouse in Pennsylvania in 1971.

The Jehovah's Witnesses couple that came to recruit us seemed very nice. Within six weeks of studying the Bible with the Watchtower organization, my mom sat me down and told me I could never speak to our relatives again because, according to Jehovah's Witnesses, Satan might be working through our relatives to keep us from learning the truth. In addition, I couldn't have a single solitary girlfriend for the next 10 years, nor could I ever enjoy a holiday or birthday again. To say life became bleak is a monumental understatement.

I was baptized as a Jehovah's Witness, dedicating my life as a child to a man-made organization, without the ability to understand the fine print. When I left the group at the age of 18 to pursue my own spiritual path, I was shunned by my family.

My mother, brother, sister, four nephews and niece haven't seen or spoken to me in 25 years now.

The Watchtower organization's policy of shunning affects millions of people worldwide. Yes, Jehovah's Witnesses are very nice — until you decide you don't want to remain among them anymore.

Brenda Lee, Denver, Colorado
The writer is author of a memoir, "Out of the Cocoon: A Young Woman's Courageous Flight from the Grip of a Religious Cult."

Barron blues

To the editor,

Councilman — and former Black Panther Party activist Charles Barron's candidacy for Borough President could set back race relations for generations.

"Plenty of traffic in race for Borough Prez," July 28). His quote, "I'm taking care of black folks," said it all. Imagine if a white, Asian, Hispanic, Italian, Irish, Caribbean, Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, atheist, gay, lesbian or heterosexual said the same thing about his or her own group?

Voters should believe that their elected officials are elected to represent everyone on an equal and fair basis, regardless of the constituents' sexual orientation, gender, age, ethnicity, religious beliefs or race. I'm sure the intelligent voters of Kings County will not want to turn the clock back 50 years by electing such a clearly bigoted person as Charles Barron.

Where is the outrage from other elected officials, along with the media and American Civil Liberties Union on this issue?

Clearly, if you or I said the same thing, there would be editorials calling for our removal from public office. Al Sharpton would be marching across the Brooklyn Bridge. Norman Siegel would be filing a lawsuit. The Council would be passing a resolution of condemnation.

Hypocrisy knows no boundaries!

Larry Penner, Great Neck

OUR OPINION

Why not Thor?

Continued from page 1

year-round theme park, recreation, hotel, restaurant and retail Xanadu.

For the past year or so, Thor has spent more than \$100 million buying up land — including the Astroland amusement park and most of Doro's Wonder Wheel Park — at market rates. At this point, Sitt owns most of the land between the landmark Cyclone roller coaster and Nathan's Famous.

But to realize his dream of adding hotel units to Coney's amusement district, he needs the city to grant him a zoning variance.

For some reason, the city is playing hardball. At first, city officials said they objected to Sitt's plan to build luxury condo units inside Coney's amusement zone. So Sitt jettisoned those units in favor of three hotels, one of them a time-share.

Still, the city has objected. That's fine. We certainly welcome a healthy dose of skepticism where developers are concerned, especially one with Sitt's track record of winning zoning changes and then re-selling his newly valuable land at a large markup.

But what is particularly galling is the way that "city officials" have demonstrated — or, more accurately, not demonstrated — their objections to Sitt's plan.

Taking advantage of a local media obsessed with "scops," these "city officials" have been doing out little "exclusives" to both the Daily News and the Post on an almost daily basis.

Last week, the "scops" kept coming, yet none explained why the city does not like Joe Sitt.

First, the Post reported that city planners had taken a taxpayer-financed junket to Denmark to meet with operators of Copenhagen's famed Tivoli Gardens amusement park. Those same planners have also been to Disney World for further "fact-finding."

The purpose of this leak was to remind Sitt that the city could always condemn his land in Coney Island via eminent domain and turn it over to a developer of its choosing. Threatening a landowner with losing his property if he doesn't play ball is a horrendous misuse of civic power.

Next, a "high-ranking" city official — unnamed, of course — told the Daily News that the Sitt plan was "dead in the water." The official said that Thor must come up with a better plan before the city will even meet with the developer.

See THOR on p. 14

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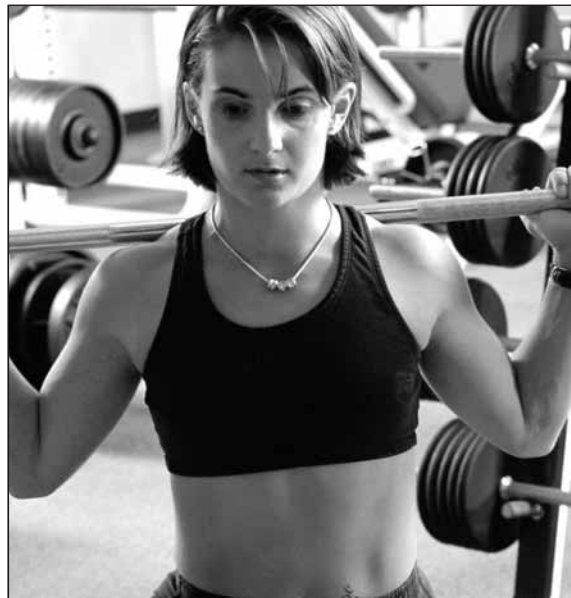
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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

August 11, 2007

Up in smoke

How Brooklyn is getting hooked on smoking from hookahs

By David Marchese
for The Brooklyn Paper

Centuries after first sparking up in the Middle East, hookah bars have firmly wrapped their tentacles around Brooklyn. From Williamsburg to Bensonhurst, Carroll Gardens to Bay Ridge, perhaps you've sniffed a sweet, pungent smell wafting seductively through the air. Follow your nose and you might happen upon a hookah bar — not, as two Department of Health officials interviewed for this story misheard me say, a “hooker bar.” There you’ll find people casually taking tokes from a hookah, a jumbo water pipe also known as “nargileh” or “shisha.”

“People want to know if they can get high,” said Faried Assad, the owner of Zaytoons, a Middle Eastern restaurant on Smith Street, who was putting the finishing touches on Sheesha, a hookah bar adjacent to his restaurant that’s due to open later this month.

Assad began his foray into the hookah business this past spring with an addition to the Fort Greene branch of Zaytoons, meant to attract students from the nearby Pratt Institute. Buoyed by success at that location, he decided to offer the smoky delight at his trendier Carroll Gardens spot. “More and more people are coming to Smith Street from Manhattan for a night out,” he said. “So I thought it made sense to open a hookah bar here.”

A third Zaytoons, this one in Prospect Heights, is due to open in the coming weeks. But wait a second. Wasn’t smoking in bars, you know, banned? This is where things get cloudy.

A call to the Health Department confirmed that just like any other bar or restaurant, hookah establishments must comply with the city’s no-smoking laws, meaning tobacco is verboten. But hookah bars circumvent the tobacco kibosh because, their proprietors ex-

plained, there isn’t any tobacco being smoked at their establishments. Instead, the substance being set alight — usually called “herbal tobacco” — is said to be a harmless amalgam of various plants, fruits and flavorings (anything from kiwi to chocolate to pina colada) that can run from \$10-\$20 per pipe.

When we asked the Health Department if that explanation is kosher, a spokesman said the city would test the various mixtures, and those proprietors whose mixture contains tobacco will be fined.

Of course, this hazy legality, combined with a whiff of Arabian exoticism, isn’t exactly hurting the hookah business.

Unlike hookah bars in the Middle East, which tend to function as social clubs, places for a mostly male clientele to drop by at lunch or after work to share a smoke and shoot the breeze, Brooklyn’s hookah bars are angling to make a profit off of folks looking for a weekend alternative to boring old bars and clubs.

“It’s appealing because it’s not a mainstream atmosphere,” said Morgan

Monaco of Prospect Heights. “Each bar has its own flavor, but the hookah bars attract a more laidback crowd.”

She added that it was easier to enjoy the company of your friends at a hookah bar. “You’re congregating around this pipe and people can talk and catch up more than they could sitting in a row at a regular bar.”

For now, these nights are still out of the ordinary in Brooklyn. “Hookah is an everyday thing back home,” said Egyptian-born Ayman Ghaly, the owner of the Sultana hookah bar in Williamsburg. “But [in Brooklyn], it’s a thing people do on the weekend, more of a special occasion.”

The typical decor of the new hookah bars testifies to their grand nightlife aspirations. Prepare to find yourself awash in a sea of deep reds and blues, heavy on fantasy Arabi-



What a drag: Smokers at Sultana, above, and Zaytoons, below, are part of the new guard eschewing traditional watering holes for the Middle Eastern flavored hookah bars popping up all over Brooklyn.

an motifs — think leather floor pillows and billowing nomad-style hanging tarps. “I love the colors, I love the cushions, I love the decorations,” said social worker Corey Glaser, 35, who sat cross-legged on the floor at Sultana, languidly drawing from a hookah. “It’s way more interesting and fun than going to a regular bar.”

At the Cazuza Cafe hookah bar in Bensonhurst, which opened this spring, the appeal is much the same. “It’s a nice, chill way to spend time with friends,” said Tolyan Vinnikov, an 18-year-old Brooklyn College accounting student. Classmate Aleksey Berezhovsky, also 18, offered another reason why he’s hooked on hookah. “It’s a substitute for going to a bar,” said the too-young-to-drink Berezhovsky between drags of watermelon-flavored smoke. These spots are particularly popular with the

18-20 set since many hookah bars do not serve liquor and therefore don’t have a 21-plus policy. It all depends on the religious views of the owner. Sultana serves booze, but at Zaytoons you’re out of luck.

“Young people like to smoke and they like the environment — it’s something different,” said Sultana’s Ghaly, who opened his place nine months ago when he saw a pink spot on Billyburg’s nightlife lings. Since then, Sultana has found a place within the neighborhood’s cultural fabric. Sultana has played host to lesbian parties, Latin nights and even an event thrown by BBW (in case you forgot, that’s Big Beautiful Women). Is this current hookah bar bonanza bound to last? Assad, for one, isn’t sure. “I’m skeptical,” he said. “But people keep looking for something new to do. You’ve got to give it to them.”

ART



In the mix

It took the feminist movement more than 60 years to reach its second wave, but the Brooklyn Museum has made it there in a matter of months. The Museum’s Sackler Center for Feminist Art opened and mounted the inaugural “Global Feminisms” show in March, but is re-exhibiting highlights with a new show called “Global Feminisms Remix.”

The show, which features work by Sigalit Landau, Pilar Albarracín (above) and 38 others, opened on Aug. 3. “We needed to have a follow-up exhibition curated as soon as possible,” said Sackler Center curator Maura Reilly. “I wanted to have something that would be of equal caliber.” Reilly wanted to freshen up the exhibit since the Sackler Center’s next big show won’t be until March 2008.

The photographs, video pieces and multimedia works that Reilly chose to highlight in the new show are all done by non-Western artists. The focus here is on what the museum called “countries that seldom figure in the discourse about contemporary art,” like Guatemala, Kenya and Pakistan.

Could removing Western artists from the show be a ploy to silence Brooklyn feminist artists who have complained their work wasn’t included? “Not at all,” said Reilly. “I don’t really care about the comments they’ve made.”

“Global Feminisms Remix” is up at the Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights) until March of 2008. Suggested contribution is \$8; children 12 and younger get in free. For information, call (718) 638-5000 or visit www.brooklynmuseum.org.

— Kate Newingham

MUSIC

Rock ‘Registry’

When you can pick and choose the songs you want to buy online, it’s rare enough to have one artist’s whole catalogue, let alone that of an entire record label. This weekend in Carroll Gardens, though, the Social Registry — the Greenpoint-based indie label that brought us Blood on the Wall and TK Webb — will bring together almost all of its acts to celebrate four successful years of business.

“We’ve always talked about doing something like this,” said Social Registry President Joe Gaer. “But now we have new acts on the label and it’s time to debut them to everyone. It’s seems like the perfect time.”

During the two-day festival, old standbys like Gang Gang Dance will take the stage alongside their newest label mates, Douglas Armour and Sam Alice Group, who are traveling from Los Angeles and London respectively.

It’s unusual for this many bands to come together in support of their label, but with this set there’s a strong camaraderie. “It’s a pretty tight-knit group,” explained Social Registry chameleon Samara Labelle (pictured). “This is the continuation of a long history.”

The Social Registry Summer Festival will take place at 1 pm on both Aug. 11 and Aug. 12 at the Yard (400 Carroll St., between Bond and Nevins streets in Carroll Gardens). Tickets are \$15 per day, or \$25 for both. For information, visit www.socialregistry.com.

— Julie Bunim

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Something's cooking

Hot new Oven heats up Brooklyn Heights dining scene

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Paper

I was anxious to give Oven, the buzzed-about new restaurant in Brooklyn Heights, a try — until I noticed the address. Here we go again, I thought, remembering the succession of eateries that opened at the pretty Henry Street locale and then closed not long after.

Oven had the right idea of combining a wine bar and designer pizza place — a good move in Brooklyn Heights where, until the recent addition of Le Petit Marche, there were only a few decent places to dine.

Oven takes up a third of the space that the former tenants did, sharing the property with takeout spot Busy Chef and the Blue Pig, an ice cream store. With its spacious bar, 15 tables and a romantic nook in the corner outfitted with a comfortable booth, the room is large enough to hold a bustling group, but not so big it feels cavernous. And, once the permit is issued, patio seating will bring more tables to the street. With the sunny Tuscan colored walls, copious amounts of warm wood and country style light fixtures, the room resembles an elegant wine bar more than a pizza parlor.

Unlike the average slice shop, appetizers here are a splurge. The



starters are all \$10 and up so, while I wasn't expecting mozzarella sticks, I was glad to find generous, shareable entrees for diners who want an upscale option to pizza.

The "oven-roasted diver scallops" included a quartet of enormous mollusks, crisp on the outside and tender within, resting on a nest of homemade, silky pappardelle noodles.

Tiny cubes of chorizo sausage and roasted corn kernels created an unctuous, spicy sauce for the shellfish, but was pushed a step too far on the sweet end with a smear of



Nothing says lovin': Hearty appetizers like the veal meatballs, above, and the cheesy arugula salad, left, are a "splurge," said Tina, but also "generous and shareable."

tomato ragout.

The chef's sweet tooth appeared again in a hearty goat cheese salad topped with sweet sun-dried tomato vinaigrette. A heavy hand with the dressing upset an ideal balance of roasted Roma tomatoes, crunchy toasted pine nuts and saline pieces of black olives. With the dish came a thick slice of warm Italian bread baked on the premises with a cheffy, brittle-crust and a tender crumb slathered with tart Vermont goat cheese.

The list of pizzas also has its standouts, like the "Inglese" pie with bacon, Vermont eggs, sausage and mozzarella over tomato sauce, and the "Florentina" of spinach and eggs, black olives,

green peppers and Roma tomatoes, caramelized onions and mozzarella baked in a chipotle ranch dressing. It sounded like a cutoff from California Pizza Kitchen's menu. At the

DINING

Oven (60 Henry St., at Cranberry Street in Brooklyn Heights) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Appetizers and salads: \$10-\$20, pizza: \$12-\$17, \$30 for a pie with Kobe steak. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Dinner is available on Sunday. Closed Monday, Sunday A, C to High Street, 2, 3 to Clark Street. For information, call (718) 237-8720 or visit www.oveny.com.

height of the gourmet pizza spectrum, there was even a \$30, pull-the-stops-out pie with slices of Kobe steak, roasted tomatoes and mozzarella on a crème fraîche base, finished with Balsamic vinegar and black truffle oil.

I opted for a simpler pie, one with slices of eggplant and pine nuts. The crust was crisp and thin, but lacked salt and chewiness. Without a more satisfying base, whatever is put on top is just decoration — although good decoration in this case, with an acidic tomato sauce, sharp, bright Parmesan, provolone and mozzarella.

The tiramisu, strongly recommended by our waiter, was light and not too sweet. I'll return in the fall though, for the retro chic chocolate fondue, served here with angel food cake and fresh fruit.

Owner Chris Fehlinger's 180-plus bottle wine list only added to the experience. The 10-page round-up is divided into selections available by the glass, half bottle and full bottle. Additionally, Fehlinger has arranged each wine into a category like "fresh, crisp and clean," or "lush, elegant ... liquid velvet." These classifications made narrowing down a selection from the international list that much easier. Not exactly sure of the rose, I asked the waiter, who recommended the Chateau La Grotte '06 from Bordeaux, which was crisp, fresh and dry. Perfect. Another asset: Most of the wines fall in the \$20 to \$40 range, making Oven an ideal spot for an everyday meal or a place to splurge.

Oven has a great wine list and a good concept. Once the kitchen works out a few kinks, I suspect the eatery will break the curse of this address. As any local will tell you, another good place to dine in the neighborhood wouldn't be one too many.

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Orvieto, Ferdinando Giordano
A classic white wine from Umbria, I'm impressed with the amount of ripe fruit flavor it delivers. Floral. Lightly herbal aromas on the nose, fresh and lively on the palate. NOT a cheap Orvieto you'll be disappointed by.
\$9.95

Tempranillo "Number One" Berberana
A great "food-friendly" wine! For summer grilling, this Tempranillo will outshine Merlots that cost twice as much! Plenty of black cherry, blueberry and cassis notes, with a hint of vanilla.
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Carmenere Reserve, Porta
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Discover these fabulous wines


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Skouras, Saint George
Here's a delicious red that works with grilled beef, pork, lamb, sausages, mushrooms: this wine will make them all taste better and make your dinner seem like a feast! Well balanced, richly textured, with plenty of delicious, ripe fruit flavors and a long, smooth finish. From a top wine maker of the Eastern Mediterranean, the best vine growing area in all of Greece. You've got to try this one!
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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 9

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OTHER

FLOATING POOL: 9 am to 7 pm. Located between Flies 4 and 5 (Jerman and Joralemon streets), www.brooklynfloatingspace.org.

WEEKSVILLE FARMERS MARKET: Farm-fresh produce, 9 am to 1 pm. 1698 Bergen St., between Rochester and Buffalo avenues. (718) 788-8500.

FLA MARKET: hosted by the Church of the Holy Spirit. Refreshments available. 9 am to 4 pm. 8117 Bay Pkwy., at 82nd Street. (718) 857-0412.

INDIE MARKET: Collective of Brooklyn-based emerging designers show their wares of fashion, accessories, bath and beauty, pet gear, home goods and more. 11 am to 7 pm. Smith and Union streets. www.brooklynindiemarket.com.

REGENT APPLICATIONS: The BAC Community Arts Regent Program funds Brooklyn-based nonprofit organizations in the areas of crafts, dance, film and video, folk arts, literature, music, opera, photography, multi-disciplinary arts, theater and visual arts. The application seminar includes a detailed explanation of the application process and the new online application, a chance to meet the BAC Regent Staff and a question and answer session. 11:30 am to 2 pm. Brooklyn Public Library, Williamsburg Branch, 240 Division Ave. at Marcy Avenue. (718) 425-0260. Free.

AUDITION: The Strivelli Players holds an audition for full production. "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Noon to 4 pm. St. Bernard's School, 1513 82nd St. Call for more information (718) 907-3422.

RED HOOK ART SHOW: Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition presents its "Really Big Art Show." 1 pm to 6 pm. Also, a

performance from the Mad Jazz Hatters. 2 pm. Red Hook Pier, 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2506. Free.

FILM SCREENING: hosted by the NY Transit Museum. Today: "On the Town" (1949) included in museum admission of \$5. \$3 children under 17. 1:30 pm. New York Transit Museum, located at the corner of Boerum Place and Schermerhorn Street. (718) 694-6000.

BALL GAME: Brooklyn Cyclones play the Staten Island Yankees. 5:35, 6 pm. KeySpan Park, 1904 Surf Ave., Coney Island. (718) 507-1100.

Sun, Aug. 19

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

BIRD CLUB: Urban Park Rangers host a birding walk in Citi's Head Park. Meet at Park House, Shore Road and 68th Street. Call 311 for information. Free.

FLOATING POOL: 9 am to 7 pm. Located at the foot of Joralemon Street. www.brooklynfloatingspace.org/npool.

SOUTHERN ISLANDS TOUR: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment hosts a tour of the southern islands of New York Bay. Learn history of Governor's Island, Ellis Island and Hoffman and Westbury Islands. Sharon Seitz and Stuart Miller lead tour. \$50. \$40 members. 9:30 am to Noon. Tour meets at Fulton Ferry Landing, foot of Old Fulton Street, opposite the River Cafe. For more information call (718) 788-8500 ext. 208.

GREENPOINT WILLAMSBURG TOUR: Municipal Art Society hosts a tour of Greenpoint and Williamsburg. Look at the site of old and future redevelopment of this area. Francis Montano leads tour. \$15, \$12 for MAS

members. 10 am. Meet at Manhattan and Greenpoint avenues, by the Greenpoint Avenue station of the G train. (212) 429-1049.

FOUNDING BROTHERS: Kick off "Battle New York" with a discussion of the key players of the American Revolution. 1 pm. Meet at the Fort Greene Visitor Center, high on the hill near the Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park entrances. Call 311 and ask for the Brooklyn Urban Park Rangers. Free.

PERFORMANCE

CAFE STENOGRAPH: presents the movie "Slaughterhouse Five" (1972). 10:30 pm. 422 Seventh Avenue at 14th Street. (718) 369-7776. Free.

BARGE MUSIC: 4 pm. See Sat., Aug. 18.

OTHER

YOGA PCMC: San Marsh Nature Center hosts a potluck dinner after yoga. Bring a vegetarian dish to share. 7:30 am. 3302 Ave. U. For info, call 311. Free.

ATLANTIC AVENUE ARTWALK: 2007. Meet painter, illustrator and cartoonist Chris Pelletier as he leads a tour of his exhibition and talks about his work. 1 pm. Free with paid regular museum admission. New York Transit Museum, located at the corner of Boerum Place and Schermerhorn Street. (718) 694-6000.

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Where there's a Willow

All the Heights is a stage for playwright Frank Polito

By Christopher Murray
for The Brooklyn Paper

It's another case of life imitating art, or is it the other way around?

In Brooklyn Heights-based playwright Frank Anthony Polito's new show, "Another Day on Willow Street," the actors playing the two couples the show focuses on are, in fact, in relationships with one another.

"It's pretty complicated," admitted Polito. The show, which was scheduled to premiere on Aug. 10 in the 11th Annual New York International Fringe Festival, focuses on two Heights couples, one straight and one gay, whose lives become intensely intertwined. And the entire show is set on the Promenade.

"The play really uses Brooklyn Heights and the feel of living there," said Craig Bentley, Polito's partner both on and off stage. "It explores why people choose to live there rather than in Manhattan, because of a real love of the Heights and Brooklyn generally."

Additionally, it explores the relationships of the two couples: an investment banker and his pregnant wife (played by real life couple Fred Backus and Pamela Sabagh) and their new acquaintances, a gay couple who want to get married—but not before one of them comes out to his family.

"A lot of people who know us



Dramatic Heights: Craig Bentley, Frank Anthony Polito, Pamela Sabagh and Fred Backus play two couples who find one another on the Promenade in "Another Day on Willow Street."

THEATER

"Another Day on Willow Street" runs through Aug. 26 at the Fringe Festival. Tickets are \$15. For information and exact showtimes, visit www.fringe.org.

might think the characters are us," said Bentley. "But in reality, it's more that some of the elements of real life are taken and then mixed up."

Polito said that living in the Heights inspired him to invent the characters and to put them in the kinds of situations that the neighborhood creates.

"When the woman is sitting on the Promenade sipping Starbucks one day," explained Polito, "she meets one of the gay men and they discover that they're next door neighbors and become good friends."

The topics of the play, with its issues of gay marriage and the impact of gentrification on a neighborhood in Brooklyn, is intensified by its being set just before Sept. 11, 2001.

As for the complexities of two real life couples portraying two couples, Polito said he's just a bit nervous about acting opposite his real life love.

"The conflict of the gay couple is so close to a conflict that we had in real life," he said. "I hope Craig remembers that I'm just acting."

The Brooklyn Paper

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The Hamptons ain't for kids

DIAPER DIVA was fit to be tied. During a beach vacation in Long Island last week, Smartmum and Diaper Diva stopped for lunch at the Clam Bar on the Montauk Highway. Smartmum noticed it first: there was a note on the menu blackboard and in the menu as well that said: "It is a condition of service at the Clam Bar that all children must stay in their seats."

it and the highway.

Smartmum figured that the stipulated ban on something to do with the restaurant's insurance policy and the fact that a car might come barreling into the dining area.

Ducky, Diaper Diva's 3-year-old son in her seat while the sisters ordered a delicious array of lunch specialties—lobster salad served in a fresh tomato, grilled shrimp on greens, fish and chips, and clam chowder—but while they waited for their food, Ducky got down from her seat and happily played on the ground near the table.

When Diaper Diva went to get something from the car, a young waitress came to the table and told Smartmum: "You better move your baby. The owner is here and he'll have to throw you out..."

Smartmum told the waitress that her sister was on her way and she would put Ducky back on the chair.

"Have you ever heard of anything so ridiculous? I'm sure there are fights here every day. Ducky wasn't doing anything noisy or dangerous so she just sitting a few feet from the table playing with pebbles."

Diaper Diva told Smartmum, "Then Diaper Diva pointed at some other children who were walking around."



By Louise Crawford

"What about them? Maybe they should be kicked out!"

Truth be told, Smartmum thought DD was going a little overboard. But she did have a point. When a waitress came by two more times to tell Diaper Diva to move Ducky, an argument ensued.

"It's totally ridiculous. You have no right to tell me that my child has to sit in a chair," Diaper Diva told her.

"It says so in the menu," the waitress said.

"So what are you going to do?" Diaper Diva countered. "We'll have to throw you out."

Diaper Diva was incredulous. While she ranted, Smartmum noticed that waitresses brought bowls of water for park dogs. And they seemed to have very little tolerance for kids.

The note on the menu was the first time Smartmum has ever encountered such a request at a restaurant. If the Clam Bar owners are doing it for safety reasons, why don't they say so in a nice way? (Then again, what if they're doing it just to be child unfriendly?)

Diaper Diva hasn't heard the end of it since the whole imbricco ensued up on a popular Brooklyn blog.

Now she's really fit to be tied. Especially after Au Contraire, a Park Slope psychoanalyst sent this missive her way, via the blog.

"Dear Diaper Diva, You may believe that it's OK for your little future narcissist to grow up believing that wherever she goes, whatever she does, the world will be glad to serve her, not in so doing, you are not, in the truest sense of parenting, serving her. One of the most difficult and essential parts of growing up in a social world is learning that your impulses and desires must be respectfully dovetailed with those of others, including those living in the adult world. Little children generally don't cut claims—a bit much for their digestion—so why was Ducky there?"

Smartmum's friend and blogger, Seeing Green, offered this elegant response to the psychoanalyst:

"It's not the letter of the rule, it's the spirit that should count. For a restaurant to ask policy that children be in seats is reasonable, but it seems that the Clam Bar was way overreacting. As for Au Contraire, get a rip on yourself, man! What a ridiculous statement to make."

Maybe because they're on a family vacation? Perhaps something you missed out on growing up? And also eating clams when you were a toddler?"

But it was this response from a former waitress at the Clam Bar that really put the whole matter into perspective:

"I worked at the Clam Bar on and off for 14 years. I never once had a safety problem with a dog owner. They understand that although the restaurant is outside that does not make it a dog park."

"I did however have countless problems with parents allowing their children to roam the dining area and parking lots unattended as if the restaurant were a daycare center or a public park. The staff takes the majority of the blame and falls to avoid an out-of-control child, but there were many times I witnessed and burned patrons (and a few children). Let me tell you, chowder is hot, but steaming broth is something else entirely."

While on vacation, Diaper Diva had to learn the hard way that she wasn't in Park Slope anymore. Clearly, few restaurants are as child tolerant as Park Slope's beloved Two Buds (although Lunch, also on Montauk Highway, is remarkably child-friendly).

But parents, like children, have to learn new rules wherever they go. It's all part of growing up and learning to exist in the complicated, scary world of the adult world.

Louise Crawford produces the Web site, "Only the Blog Knows Brooklyn."

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FAMILY CALENDAR

Compiled by Susan Rosenblatt Jay

SATURDAY, AUG. 11

9 am-5 pm: Ride the Prospect Park Coaster with Brooklyn Public Library's Windsor Terrace branch (160 East Fifth St. between Coney Avenue and Fort Hamilton Parkway), free. Call (718) 686-9727 for info.

2 pm: Eric Jack Keats story hour. Imagination Playground in Prospect Park (center park near Ocean Avenue, between Parkside Avenue and Lincoln Road), free. Call (718) 965-8960 for info.

9:15 am-4:30 pm: Intense dance program. Dancewear ages 10 to 18, \$400. August 20 to August 24. Call (718) 522-4696 for pre-registration.

MONDAY, AUG. 13

11 am: Scavenger hunt. Brooklyn Public Library Brooklyn Public Library's Red Hook branch (7 Wolcott St. between Dwight and Richards streets), free. Call (718) 935-0033 for info.

2 pm: Toddler Time for babies 18 to 36 months. Brooklyn Public Library's Red Hook branch (7 Wolcott St. between Dwight and Richards streets), free. Call (718) 935-0033 for info.

2:30-4:30 pm: Science and Movement at Piermont Playground. Brooklyn Heights Playground Committee (end of Piermont Street and the River), free. Visit www.bhplaygrounds.org for info.

6-8 pm: Arts and crafts at Piermont Playground. Brooklyn Heights Playground Committee (end of Piermont Street and the River), free. Visit www.bhplaygrounds.org for info.

TUESDAY, AUG. 14

10 am-noon: Creative Arts at Piermont Playground. Brooklyn Heights Playground Committee (end of Piermont Street and the River), free. Visit www.bhplaygrounds.org for info.

6:30 pm: Rhumba with Max Pollak. Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue), free. Call (718) 735-4400 for info.

8 pm: Kid Film Fest. MacCADA and African Film Festival of New York (Fulton Park, corner of Utica Avenue and Fulton St.), free. Call (718) 230-0492 for info.

FRIDAY, AUG. 17

9:30-noon: Learn to Land. Audubon Society (Cove, Main Street Park), reservations required. Call (718) 802-0063 ext. 18 for info.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 15

10 am-noon: Creative Arts at Piermont Playground (at the Promenade), free. Visit www.bhplaygrounds.org for info.

THURSDAY, AUG. 16

10 am-5 pm: Creative Arts at Piermont Playground. Brooklyn Heights Playground Committee (end of Piermont Street and the River), free. Visit www.bhplaygrounds.org for info.

2-4 pm: "Thorny Garden Thursday" Brooklyn Botanic Gardens (1000 Washington Ave. between Montgomery and Crown streets), free with garden admission. \$8 adults, free for kids 12 and under. Call (718) 423-7200 for info.

4 pm: Writing workshop for tweens at the Brooklyn Public Library Bay Ridge branch (223 Ridge Blvd., between 79th and 80th streets), free. Call (718) 748-5709 for info.

10 am-noon: Creative Arts at Piermont Playground. Brooklyn Heights Playground Committee (end of Piermont Street and the River), free. Visit www.bhplaygrounds.org for info.

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The Play's the Thing

with Ed Shakespeare

Three days in the bus leagues

THEY DON'T CALL IT THE BUS LEAGUES FOR nothing. The Cyclones have just completed a six-day road trip. After three games in Lowell, Mass., the team played three more games in Oronota, N.Y., about a half-hour from the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

The team leaves about an hour after their contest update, and after a five-hour bus ride from Oronota, the Cyclones' bus pulls into the Keyspan Park parking lot at 3 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 5.

Matt Bouchard, the Brooklyn shortstop, boards one of two vans and is driven to the Cyclones dorm at Polytechnic University in Downtown Brooklyn. He goes to his room, which he shares with pitcher Dillon Gee, and is soon asleep.

But not for long.

Four hours later, he's up and in one of the local Starbucks for a breakfast of coffee and an egg, sausage and cheese sandwich. Then, after hanging around in the dorm, it's back in the van for the trip to the ballpark for the 5:00 p.m. game against Aberdeen.

Usually, the team reports to Keyspan Park in time to be dressed for stretching four hours before a game. In order to get the team some rest, manager Edgar Alfonzo has eliminated batting and infield practice today, but the players do stretch and throw.

Bouchard is supplied with two bats by the Cyclones. Both broke on the road trip, so he is issued two new ones before the game. He is starting at shortstop, batting ninth.

At bat in the second inning with the bases loaded, his new bat works, as he hits the hall of the Gargallo's sign in left center. He picks up two RBIs, but settles for a single because the runner ahead of him couldn't advance past second.



THE FUN PART: Matt Bouchard turns a double play, which is easier than an eight-hour bus ride.

He later grounds out, strikes out, and grounds out in Brooklyn's 12-6 win. His play in the field is routine.

That night he gets a free spread of food — he takes pasta and salad — in the players' lounge in the clubhouse, then it's back in the van for the half-hour trip to the dorm. It's an early night for most of the players, with mainly Sportscenter and baseball on television.

The next morning, there's another ride in the van to Keyspan Park, arriving at 10:30, only an hour-and-a-half before the noon start on Camp Day. Once again, manager Alfonzo has cut down on the pre-game workout in order to get the players more rest.

The Cyclones take the field with Bouchard in his usual spots, at shortstop and batting ninth.

But the team seems sluggish this time, when these players normally eat breakfast, and the contest becomes a reversal of the easy victory the night before.

Bouchard is fielding all right, but he's 0-for-2 at the plate. In the sixth inning, Chris Fournier is at third base, and Bouchard apparently misses a squeeze sign from Alfonzo, coaching at third. Even though Fournier avoids being retired on the play, Alfonzo is not pleased.

In the bottom of the sixth inning, Joaquin Rodriguez has replaced Bouchard in the line-up with Rodriguez taking third and Jake Egisti moving from third base over to shortstop.

The normally reliable and alert Bouchard gets the message. "I missed the sign," he says after the game that the Cyclones lost 11-6.

The players now have to shower and eat — there's another players' spread of food in their lounge — then they have about an hour-and-a-half before the 6 p.m. bus departure for Niles, Ohio, home of the Mahoning Valley Scrappers, a Cleveland Indians' farm team.

Some players walk around the neighborhood or make phone calls, but Bouchard and all the other players are seated on the bus well before the scheduled departure.

The bus trip takes over eight hours, including a brief stop along the highway for food.

The players enter a Days Inn, modest at best, close to the shopping mall that abuts the ballpark.

When the players awake the next morning, it's raining.

The rain continues, and the game is called at 3 p.m., four hours before game time.

They'll be a make-up doubleheader the next evening, but for now Bouchard can relax — after the team takes the position players to lift weights at a local gym.

The players then shop, and after dinner, Bouchard and his room mate, Brandon Kaval, watch television.

Bouchard has been fielding well, showing good range and hands, but he's batting just .243.

The former Georgetown University star wants to hike that average, but for now he gets to rest — a task often completed more easily on the road than at home.

It's not a bad life in the minors, but it is busy.

There's a double-header the next night, but that's not bad.

The only bus trips tomorrow are five minute ones to-and-from the ballpark.

CHANNELING THE BARD

Each week, Ed Shakespeare, the bard of Brooklyn baseball, will take a page from his ancient ancestor and add a bit of umbric pentameter to all our lives. This week's contribution is called "The Sound of Silence."

The sound of silence. Ozymorod? Yes. Impossible to get at Keyspan Park. Although improving some, I do confess The noises still assault, the sounds do bark.

At times a fan will want to talk a bit. Converse with friends, discuss a play they've seen. Perhaps just in contemplation sit. The game is rural, played upon a green.

The pace not frantic, moments free to hear Sounds of action. The crack of bats, the whacks Of ball in glove and cheers of fans are dear. Not blares, and those mechanical attacks.

The constant music, carried fake claps — enough Already. Shut it off! That's not so tough.

BROOKLYN CYCLONES COVERAGE

A look inside Hector's laboratory

By Ed Shakespeare
for The Brooklyn Paper

The Cyclones' bullpen is not just a place to warm up a pitcher's arm — it's a laboratory. And it's created a monster. The best pitching staff in the New York-Penn League.

Take those two aluminum stakes in the ground on either side of the bullpen home plates, the ones with the rubber band strung between them, for example.

It's not something out of a sci-fi film. Pitching coach Hector Berrios places the rubber band at knee height, so pitchers can get a 3-D representation of the strike zone.

"I got the idea from Mets pitching coach Rick Peterson," said Berrios. "Pitchers have to learn to keep the ball at knee height and below. That way, the batter only sees the top half of the ball, and if he hits it, we get a groundout."

The Cyclones even take the stakes and rubber bands on the road, to use in enemy bullpens.

The Clones' pen has other unusual devices, as well, including a "backwards mound." In addition to the two regular mounds, the Cyclones have a



Cyclones pitching coach Hector Berrios has installed guide wires in the team's bullpen to help teach pitchers to keep their pitches down. Here, catcher Jason Jacobs warms up the pitcher Eric Neisen with the help of the guides.

mound that faces the wrong way — in other words, the pitcher has to pitch uphill.

"With a regular mound, pitchers can get lazy and not finish their pitches, not pull the hand all the way down because it's too easy for them because they're throwing downhill," said Berrios.

And there's one more unusual sight in the Brooklyn pen: Buddy, an inflatable batter that gets pitchers accustomed to seeing a batter.

But, alas, Buddy is injured. "His upper body is fine, but the [deflated] leg has put him on the DL," said Berrios.

Cyclones left-hander Josh Appell spilled the beans on the incident that disabled Buddy. "Dillon Gee had been pitching him inside and hit him a few times. Then Gee threw an inside fastball and popped his leg open."

Berrios said he's hoping to have Buddy up and about soon — which is a good idea, considering that his fully functioning laboratory has helped create a pitching staff with the best ERA in the New York-Penn League.

Grady's off the market

By Patrick Hickey Jr.
for The Brooklyn Paper

After every Cyclones game (especially after a win!), it's customary to see players conversing with the female fans outside the stadium. However, one Clone finds himself always going home with the same woman.

Her name is Alexis. Her husband's name is Grady Hinchman.

Just recently celebrating his one-year wedding anniversary, Hinchman is still gaga over his stunning blonde wife, crediting her as playing an instrumental part in the development of his career.

"I couldn't have ever asked for more," said Hinchman, who is 1-1 with a 2.89 ERA and 18 strikeouts in just over 18 innings.

"We got married last year during the all-star break in Hagerstown. She's always been

behind me, 100 percent. If my world came crashing down, I know she would still be there for me."

Given that Hinchman is getting up in years — he's 26 — his wife could be the first person to tell him to give up and get a job. But she's sticking with her man's plan.

"She was the first one that said I needed to do this," said Hinchman. "This isn't the easiest life to live, going from city to city. But knowing that she totally supports me gives me so much confidence. She's my biggest fan and supporter."

"It's great to know that she's willing to put her life on hold so I can live my dream," added Hinchman.

"It's the greatest feeling in the world to know that someone loves me that much and would support me no matter what."



Cyclone southpaw Grady Hinchman.

Dem Bums' last season

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Brooklyn Dodgers' final, dismal campaign, The Brooklyn Paper will provide a weekly reminder of the fabled Boys of Summer. Here's this week's highlight:

Aug. 17, 1957 Pirates 7 - Dodgers 3

Stick a fork in this team, they're done. Sandy Koufax was stalked to a 3-0 lead early, but couldn't get out of the fifth, yielding six runs before being yanked. The loss, before just 6,800 fans, dropped Brooklyn 8-1/2 games out.



Bruin Brant Rustich breaks in

By Ed Shakespeare
for The Brooklyn Paper

The Cyclones have added right-hander and UCLA alum Brant Rustich to their formidable stable of pictures.

Selected in the second round of this year's draft, Rustich, the El Cajon, California product, went 3-2, 6.67 ERA at UCLA before signing with the Mets and starting his professional career at Kingsport.

The 6-foot-6 former Bruin pitched in five games in the Appalachian League, starting two contests and going 1-0 with a 1.57 ERA. He threw 10.1 innings and struck out ten, allowing one walk.

"Obviously, pitching in Brooklyn is different than at Kingsport [where crowds are much smaller]," said Rustich.

"There are 8,000 here almost every night. At UCLA a crowd of 1,500 would be really big for us."

But Rustich isn't a stranger to a packed house.

"At Orleans [in the amateur Cape Cod League] we once played in front of 12,000," he said.

"I really like the crowds. I thrive under pressure, and I like the excitement."

Rustich seemed to enjoy the excitement of his maiden Brooklyn appearance as he pitched the eighth inning Sunday and allowed a single, striking out two.

Manager Edgar Alfonzo liked Rustich's work.

"Big guy, throws hard," Alfonzo said in his succinct post-game appraisal.

Little minor things

Yes, you're a professional ball player — but remember, you're not in the big leagues.

There, luggage seems to be magically transported from your hotel room to bus to airplane to bus to your new hotel room.

In the minors, you carry your own bags — but personal items and one for your equipment. And it doesn't end there.

On Cyclone road trips, manager

Edgar Alfonzo assigns the players team equipment to log aboard. For each road trip, a list is posted in the clubhouse, and each assigned player has to carry not only his own equipment, but the assigned team equipment.

The player takes the baggage onto the bus in Brooklyn, then to the ballpark, back on the bus after each game — everywhere throughout the entire trip.

Here's just a partial listing of the 17 items players had to carry on the recent trip to Ohio to play Mahoning Valley: Dillon Gee was assigned the blue trunk; Dan McDonald the red sprint bag; Micah Schilling the orange food cooler; Steve Chaney the bullpen strings; J.R. Woyle the batting ball bag; Jake Egisti the fielding ball bag, and Nick Carr the camera and gun (don't worry, it's not violent, it's a nuke gun used to record pitches' speeds).

Oh yes, Brant Rustich and Eddie Kunz, both new guys and high draft picks, had to carry two laundry bags each.

Ouch!

He hasn't reacted yet, but Cyclone Jefferys Tafford will soon realize he's been hit by a pitch in the sixth inning of Sunday's game.



Righty's got the ink on

By Patrick Hickey Jr.
for The Brooklyn Paper

Cyclones reliever Will Morgan may be leading the team in ERA this season, but he's looking to lead the team in another category not found in any professional box score: tattoos.

Currently sporting a wicked tribal tattoo with a baseball in between his shoulders, Morgan sees himself adding a few more pieces into his collection in the near future.

"I only have this piece on my back right now, but I want to get something on my calf for my grandpa," said Morgan. "I don't know when I'm going to get it though. I'd also like to get something done while I'm in Brooklyn, too; it would be cool."

The 22-year-old Californian is so into tats that he's even getting his teammates in on the inking action.

"I know that [outfielder Raul] Reyes wants to get a Virgin Mary on his forearm," said Morgan. "Reliever Steve] Clyne and I were going to get one on our last day off, but the tattoo parlor was booked full. He wants a cross on his back and it'll be his first tattoo, so it makes me feel good knowing I went with him."

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THE CYCLONES ARE BROOKLYN.

Tornado hits, killing trees, damaging homes

This story was reported by Matthew Lysiak for The Brooklyn Paper and by Associated Press reporters including Verna Dobnik. A rare tornado ripped through Bay Ridge early Wednesday, uprooting trees, damaging homes and cars, and knocking out subway service during the morning rush hour.

The related storm whipped through the west of Brooklyn, wreaking havoc. Residents were awakened between 5:30 and 6 a.m. by the sound of car alarms, thunder, and trees crashing down to the ground as the powerful wind and rain storm attacked.

Tornadoes have hit New York City before, but not often. The National Weather Service had records of at least five, but none was as strong as Wednesday's twister, which had winds as high as 135 mph.

The service had only sketchy details on the last reported tornado sighting in Brooklyn, in 1889. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime event," said Jeffrey Tongue, a Weather Service meteorologist. In Bay Ridge, the worst area may have been Ovington Avenue between Ridge Boulevard and Third Avenue. Some of trees on the block were ripped out of the ground, while the few trees left standing had large limbs pulled off.

Others gathered at the busy intersection of 68th Street and Third Avenue, taking pictures of the large tree that uprooted an entire square of sidewalk. Few streets escaped damage. "I have lived here for 38 years and this is one of the worst I remember," said resident Henry Pukis. "The storm came through and just ripped up everything in its path."

The roads weren't the only things affected. The R Train was temporarily shut down, as were several subway lines in Downtown Brooklyn.

"One big rain and it all falls apart," said Ruby Russell, 64, as she sat waiting on a train in Brooklyn. She had been trying to get to Manhattan for three hours.

State Sen. Marty Golden asked Gov. Spitzer to proclaim Bay Ridge a disaster area because of the weather and, more specifically, the "tornado and flash flooding that rippled through the area."

"I have witnessed the significant damage caused by the winds and flash flooding which requires a rapid and coordinated response," Golden said. "It's imperative that the governor acts quickly and does the right thing for these communities so that the people have access to all resources and financial assistance."

One man standing by his car survived the damage done by a falling tree while waiting for the fire trucks to get to his street.

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challenge, even in regular weather. On an average day, hundreds of MTA pumps remove 13 million gallons of water from the system. Public officials called for improvements in the drainage system after a similar rain-related shutdown in 1999, and the MTA made some changes after another round of paralyzing tunnel floods



Fallen trees cover Ovington Avenue on Wednesday, Aug. 8.

in 2004, when the remnants of Hurricane Frances washed out the subway for hours. The city's sewer and stormwater drains can handle steady rain, but when it comes to these very intense, high inch-count rain events, over a short period of time, it is very difficult," said Michael Sauter, a spokesman

Legislators seek fresh Atlantic Yards oversight

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Paper

Keep the Atlantic Yards status quo and lose the dough. Brooklyn elected officials joined with a coalition of civic groups this week to demand that the state create a new, local governmental body to manage the \$4-billion, state-sponsored development — or lose \$205-million in city funding.

"There should be no more taxpayer money going to this project until some governmental accountability is provided," said Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Prospect Heights) at a Borough Hall press conference sponsored by the coalition, known as BrooklynSpeaks.

The coalition wants to put the kibosh on funding for the Yards —

the largest real estate project ever proposed for the borough — until a new organization is created to oversee its implementation. They say that the project has not been managed with the same level of governmental involvement as major projects in other boroughs — and that because of that, community concerns have been ignored.

"This must change," said Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights). The demand comes three months after a 200-foot-wide parapet collapsed at a building on the site, raining chunks of stone on



Voicing their demands at a press conference on Wednesday in Borough Hall, State Sen. James Brennan, Councilwoman Letitia James, and Assemblywoman Vernetta Montgomery.

cars and forcing the evacuation of 300 people from a shelter next door. Following the construction accident, the Empire State Development Corporation officials who currently oversee the project promised to appoint an ombudsman and construction liaison, and hold regular group meetings with local elected officials.

In the months since, the agency has hired an environmental compliance monitor and interviewed several candidates for the ombudsman position, but failed to hold group meetings with local elected officials or hire a construction liaison. An investigation of the collapse of the Wards Bakery parapet hasn't been completed, according to reports.

Critics say that progress hasn't come fast enough. "We need an entity that will include local officials that represent affected communities to address [these] needs," said Gib Vaconi, a Prospect Heights resident and a member of the Brooklyn Speaks Coalition.

ESDC spokesman Errol Cockfield said that group's proposal will be considered. "We'll review what they have proposed," he said. "But what is important is not the form that the governance takes, but the substance."

THOR...

Continued from page 6

veloper. He or she called Sitt's plan "atrocious," but never explained what its main atrocities are. Nowhere, it seems, is anyone willing to remind the mayor of one important benefit of Sitt's plan: it is a plan! For the first time in decades, there is an actual plan on the table. But rather than debate it on the merits, "city officials" are going on paid junkets and negotiating through hand-picked stooges in the media. (And, all the while, negotiating with Sitt behind closed doors, the papers have reported.)

The irony, of course, is that the city already has a perfectly good way of hashing out the merits or exposing the demerits of a given development proposal: the existing seven-month Uniform Land-Use Review Process. Sure, Sitt, it's a jargon-filled mouthful, but ULURP (as the insiders call it), is required whenever a developer seeks a zoning change (Atlantic Yards did not go through ULURP because the state's development agency superseded local oversight, an egregious power grab the unfortunate consequences of which the city will be living with for decades).

Under ULURP, a wide variety of local officials — from community board members, to the borough president, to planning commissioners, to Councilmembers to the mayor himself — get to weigh in, negotiate, demand concessions and, if still unsatisfied, vote "no."

Let Joe Sitt apply for his zoning change, force him to make concessions so that he can get through the land-use review process with the necessary approvals, and stop all this back-room, leak-driven nonsense.

DEMO...

Continued from page 1

But if the exchange goes through, Vourderis may be left spinning his wheel towards another plan. City officials have said repeatedly that they oppose rezoning the heart of the amusement district — bordered by Surf Avenue, the boardwalk, Stillwell Avenue and West Fifth Street — for hotels, time-shares or condos. Such uses are not "appropriate for the amusement district," Janet Patterson, spokeswoman for the city's Economic Development Corporation said this week.

Vourderis and his brother Steve bought Wonder Wheel Park in 1983 from Freddy Gams, whose father designed its namesake ride and forged its 150-foot-high frame in steel on the boardwalk-front site. "We bought this place because we love showing people a good time," Vourderis said.

Vourderis' landlord, Jack Ward, has sold his 80,000-square-foot property to Sitt for \$11 million, according to Vourderis. Ward did not return phone calls from The Brooklyn Paper.

The Wonder Wheel operator said that while his immediate concern was to keep his popular kid-friendly rides in motion and to maintain Coney's freak-friendly character, "we'll do what we have to do to stay competitive."

Up the block from Deno's Wonder Wheel Park and across Surf Avenue from Nathan's Famous, an old Coney dreamer has been holding onto the pedestrian thoroughfare's grandest structure — the long-vacant Paper-on-Sheet Theater.

With Sitt just around the corner, Horace Bullard believes that his French Renaissance-style movie palace, formerly the Loews Coney Island, will win war millions more to any potential tenant worth the seat-sell in Coney's aid.

"If hotels are coming, then I'll put a tower up the back of my building," said Bullard, the flamboyant founder of the Kansas Fried Chicken chain, which had a restaurant on the ground floor of the building for many years. Bullard bought the ornate theater — then falling apart and being used as a bingo hall — in 1978, as he was acquiring land to build a multi-million dollar amusement park on the former site of Coney's famous Steeplechase Park, a plan that died a few years later. He owned the Thunderbolt roller coaster, which the city considered a dangerous eyesore. The Thunderbolt was demolished during construction of KeySpan Park next door, in 2000.

By the early 1980s, the 2,387-seat theater was gutted, with even Bullard's Kansas Fried Chicken closing a few years later. He is now working on a renovation of the facade, he said.

In March, Bullard sold to Sitt a piece of property closer to the ocean for \$13 million, according to city records. The developer hasn't asked him for a price on his crumbling movie palace, he said. "We're not rivals exactly," he said, referring to Sitt. "We're all just waiting to see what the city will decide."

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Suffolk Division, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Department. Docket No. 0701770. SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION: Peter S. Chandler, Plaintiff vs. Yvette Calvert Lytle and Brendon B. Lytle, Defendants. To the above named Defendant: Brendon B. Lytle. A Complaint has been presented to this Court by the Plaintiff, Peter S. Chandler, seeking custody of minor child, to determine paternity and support for a child born out of wedlock, order the City-Town-Clark to amend the birth record of the child to add the name of the plaintiff as the father and to delete the current name, if any. You are required to serve upon David D. Mallick, attorney for the plaintiff, whose address is 111 Broadway Street, 2nd floor, Boston, MA 02119, your answer on or before August 16, 2007. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer in the office of the Register of the Court in Boston, Witness, John M. Smoot, Esquire, First Justice of said Court at Boston, this 4th day of May, 2007. Publication: The Brooklyn Paper, a Newspaper of General Circulation in Brooklyn, NY. Richard Iannella, Register of Probate Court.

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NOTICE OF SALE, SUPREME COURT, COUNTY OF KING, ISAAC MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff, AGAINST TATIANA JENKOVA, et al. Defendants. Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale dated 4/23/2007, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Courthouse, Room 241, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, County of KINGS, New York on 8/23/2007 at 3:00 PM premises known as 195 28TH AVENUE UNIT 2-C, BROOKLYN, New York 11214. All four units plus one acre of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situated, lying and being in the New York City Borough of BROOKLYN, County of Kings and State of New York. Section Black and Lot 21 of 195-1000 Assessments returned of judgment \$362,943.63 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of final judgment Index #1811006, Domestic Proceedings, Referee: Steven J. Baum, P.C., Attorney for Plaintiff, P.O. Box 1291, Buffalo, NY 14240-1291. Dated: 7/16/2007 B30A-21

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LEGAL NOTICES

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF NASSAU.
Index No. 130314. Plaintiff designates Niagara County as the place of trial. The basis for venue is Plaintiff's residence, 281 Wheatfield St., N. Tonawanda, NY 14154. ASHLEY SODOLIO, Plaintiff against NIKOLAI CHERNYAK, defendant. ACTION FOR DIVORCE. To the above named Defendant: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer on Plaintiff within twenty (20) days after the service of the summons, exclusive of the day of service, where service is made by delivery upon you personally within the State of New York, or thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner. In case of your failure to answer or answer judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. Dated: July 16, 2007 B30-12

LEGAL NOTICES

CITATION FILE NO. 135006. Surrogate's Court, Putnam County. THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, By the Clerk of said Court and Independent TO the heirs at law, next of kin, and distributees of MYRTLE HERBERT, AKA MYRTLE E. HERBERT, deceased. If living, and if any of them survived the decedent but have since died or become incompetent, to their heirs at law whose names are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence and the Attorney General of New York State, a partition being held by the Putnam County Surrogate's Court, Putnam County, New York, on or before August 16, 2007, at 10:00 AM, to determine the rights of the heirs at law to the estate of said decedent, Myrtle Herbert, deceased. If you are required by law, you are not required to appear if you fail to appear you will be assumed to do so and judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. Dated: July 16, 2007 B30-13

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of formation of Action 5, LLC; Acts of Org., filed with NY Sec. of State ("SSNY") 07/05/2007. Office in Kings County, SSNY designated agent for service of process with copy mailed to c/o Joe Garden, 418 17th Street, Apt. 1A, Brooklyn, NY 11215, All lawful business purposes.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 2nd day of August, 2007, bearing Index Number NS0609/2007, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 607, grants me the right to assume the name of Grace Young. My present name is Grace Leung. My present address is 7520 17th Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11214. My place of birth is New York, NY. My date of birth is February 15, 1996.

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